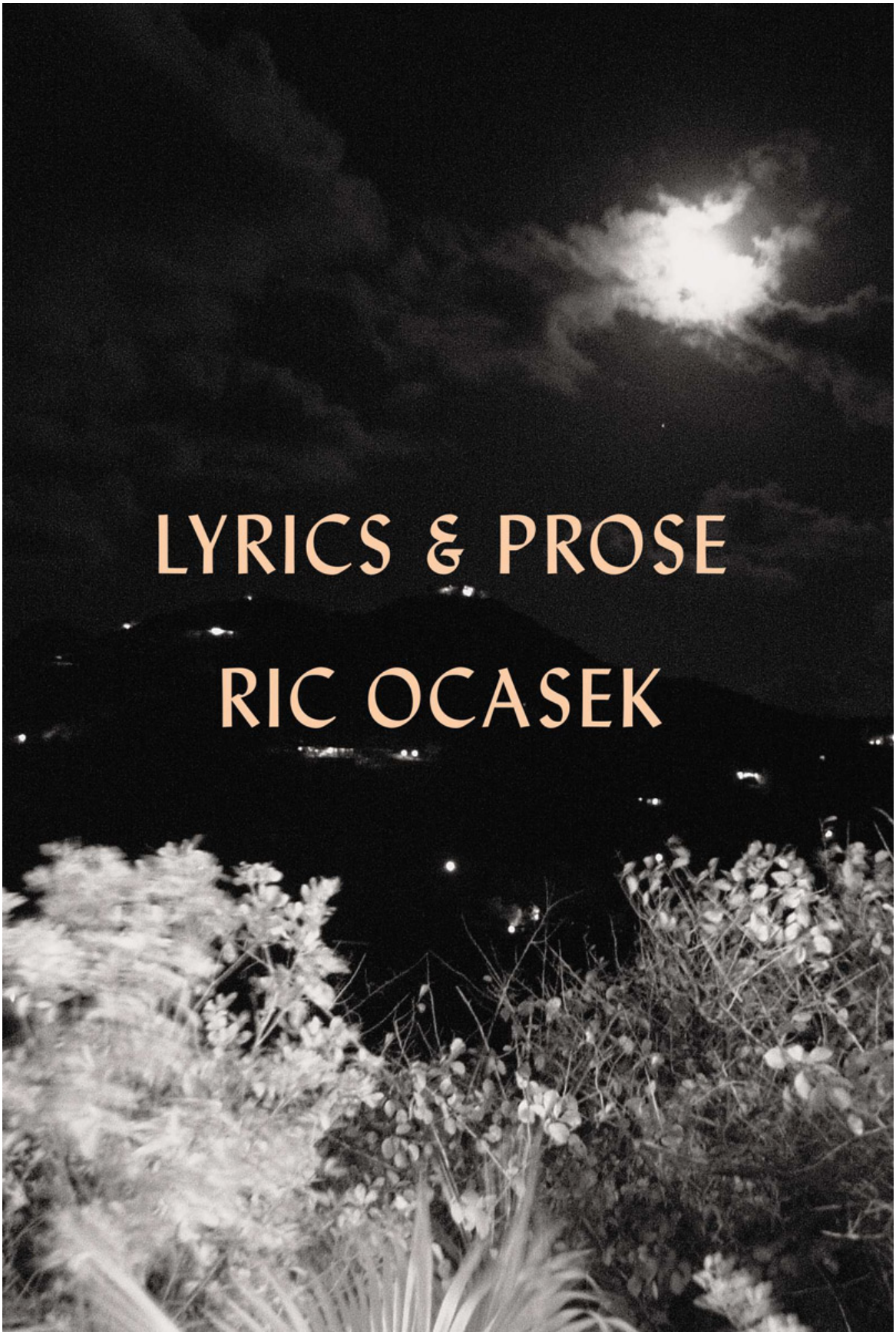
LYRICS & PROSE
RIC OCASEK

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ALWAYS LEARNING PEARSON

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- i just can't say
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- oo la la

freely sing and paradise poems 1968 to 1976

- at home by the sill in the rain
- café au lait
- freely sing and paradise
- melt away

second thought
shadyspace
tenderfish
winding down
human race
sitting still
blast furnace futures
Dec. 8, 1980
dynamic synoptic declaration
tasks
grandfather 2
state of mind
power
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for a few
the menu
they say
trip the light
new cars
weapons
attention
gunheads

negative theater 1992

some people
god i do
hollywood words evaporate
doorways
not withdrawn
follow
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amusements galore
someone pick up my knees

- all men should be boxers
- she was fascinated
- in a hole
- rainbow boys too
- pay joy
- there are strays
- lightning
- crowds
- paul's bakery
- 3:33 am
- infected
- computer war
- attempted suicide

senryu

- cadillac soul
- everlasting not
- creamators
- disadvantages
- zipped
- next
- people hang around
- not a poet
- a bargain tragedy
- values
- crypts
- all us angels wearing studs
- never stop
- maps
- are we civilized
- ny
- la
- he paced
- dirty faces
- close the door

silence
holes and balls
rhapsody
the time here
forever lost
sitting in limbo
decay
frag
no history
crack
it's alright
sucker punched
i watched you run
outside

I don't think poetry or prose is fictional. All my lyrics come from the prose I write. I just keep books of words and when I feel it's time to write songs, I steal from the prose to write the lyrics. Writing the music is easier than writing the words. I stop writing songs when I run out of lyrics. Each song has a meaning to me, but it usually has a different meaning to others—as it should. When I was a kid in school, I never thought about poetry. I thought a lot about music and art. When I started writing music, that was when it dawned on me, oh yeah, words, I will need some of those. Words can paint pictures in your mind. So lyrics and poetry became important to me. I also loved poetry because you can open the book anywhere and start reading. Going through all the lyrics and prose was a trip for me—and I use the word trip in the acid sense: dreamlike, surreal, and climactic. What I thought and said, peaks and valleys. It's a strange but true way to document a certain time.

RIC OCASEK, 2012

THE CARS

the cars 1978

Air London Studios

HARM & Ric

✓ Ric GOOD TIMES ROLL 4:05 FADE Fade to TUK-MAK 3:46

✓ Ric HARM BEST FRIENDS GIRL 4:10 FADES VERY SLOW SSS. SLOW

Ric HARM YOUR ALL I'VE GOT TONIGHT ? 4:13

✓ Ben HARM JUST WHAT I NEEDED 3:44 FADE ?

✓ Ben HARM ALL MIXED UP ALL MIXED UP RIC -4:00 (aprox)

✓ Ric MOVIN IN STEREO vocal. 5:08

LIFE'S THE SAME — IT'S SO EASY —

Ben✓ Ric HARM DON'T YOU STOP 3:29 — Fade 3 port

Ben HARM BYE BYE LOVE 4:15 WORKS 3 port

✓ Ric Ben IN TOUCH WITH YOUR WORLD Ben → Chorus 3:39 TO SLOW 3 port

✓ Ric NIGHT SPOTS

ROY THOMAS BAKER

~~Steve 460 7664~~

~~[illegible] 384 3222 Nancy~~

3:46
4:10
4:13
3:44
4:00
5:08
3:30
4:15
3:40
33.

good times roll

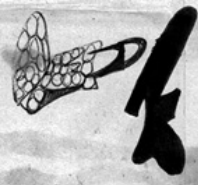
let the good times roll
let them knock you around
let the good times roll
let them make you a clown

let them leave you up in the air
let them brush your rock and roll hair
let the good times roll
let the good times roll
let the good times roll

let the stories be told
they can say what they want
let the photos be old
let them show what they want

if the illusion is real
let them give you a ride
if they got thunder appeal
let them be on your side

MY BEST FRIENDS GIRL

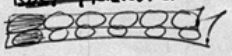


You're always dancing down the street
With your suede blue eyes
And every new boy that you meet
He doesn't know the real surprise

Here she comes again
WHEN She's dancing 'neath the starry sky
She'll make you ~~want to~~ flip
Here she comes again
WHEN She's dancing 'neath the starry sky
I kinda like the way she dips

~~BEST FRIENDS GIRL~~

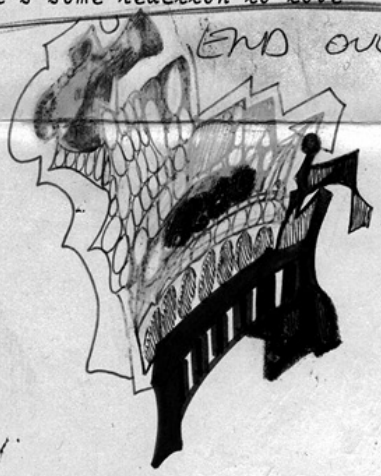
LIKE IN



SHE'S MY BEST FRIENDS GIRL
SHE'S MY BEST FRIENDS GIRL
SHE USED TO BE MINE

You got your nuclear boots
And your drip dry glove
And when you bite your lip
It's some reaction to love

END OVER



©1977 RIC OCASEK

CA
BOSTON Sequence
Cohen –

my best friend's girl

you're always dancing down the street
with your suede blue eyes
and every new boy that you meet
he doesn't know the real surprise

here she comes again
when she's dancing 'neath the starry sky
she'll make you flip
here she comes again
when she's dancing 'neath the starry sky
you kinda like the way she dips

she's my best friend's girl
she's my best friend's girl
and she used to be mine

you've got your nuclear boots
and your drip dry glove
and when you bite your lip
it's some reaction to love

Ben Vocal
Ric Vocal?

just what i needed

(smooth out Vocal on last verse like Tope)

Ben
i don't mind you coming here
and wasting all my time (TIME)
cause when you're standing o so near
i kinda loose my mind (MIND)

2 part on last verse Ric starting on beat on each line

Ric
it's not the perfume that you wear
it's not the ribbon in your hair
i don't mind you coming here
and wasting all my time

2 part last verse

Ben
i don't mind you hangin out
and talking in your sleep
it doesn't matter where you've been
as long as it was deep

Ric Ben
you always knew to wear it well 2 part
you look so fancy i can tell
so i don't mind you hangin out
and talking in your sleep

Jumping Chorus
i guess you're just what i needed
i needed someone to feed 3 part
i guess you're just what i needed
i needed someone to bleed 3 part

JUST WHAT I NEEDED ANSWER 2 part

" " " "

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just what i needed

i don't mind you coming here
and wasting all my time
cause when you're standing oh so near
i kinda lose my mind
it's not the perfume that you wear
it's not the ribbons in your hair
i don't mind you coming here
and wasting all my time

i don't mind you hanging out
and talking in your sleep
it doesn't matter where you've been
as long as it was deep
you always knew to wear it well
you look so fancy i can tell
i don't mind you hanging out
and talking in your sleep

i guess you're just what i needed
i needed someone to feed
i guess you're just what i needed
i needed someone to bleed

i'm in touch with your world

you can tuck it on the inside
you can throw it on the floor
you can wave it on the outside
like you never did before

you get the diplomatic treatment
you get the force-fed future
you get the funk after death
you get the wisenheimer brainstorm

i'm in touch with your world
so don't you try to hide it
i'm in touch with your world
and nobody's gonna buy it
it's such a lovely way to go

i've been lying on your feathers
you keep talking about the weather
i'm a psilocybin pony
you're a flick fandango phoney

it's a sticky contradiction
it's a thing you call creation
everything is science fiction
and i ought to know

don't cha stop

right here i'd like to melt inside of you
right here your kiss is totally new
right here your hands are soft and creamy
right here your mouth is wet and dreamy

and it's just what I like
so dim down the light

don't cha stop don't cha stop
don't cha stop don't cha stop
if it makes you feel good

your rhapsody is blowing my cool
your fantasies were written for fools
your floating hair it tickles my skin
feels so luscious come on do it again

you're all i've got tonight

i don't care if you hurt me some more
i don't care if you even the score
you can knock me and i don't care
you can mock me and i don't care
you can rock me just about anywhere
it's alright

you're all i've got tonight
you're all i've got tonight
you're all i've got tonight
i need you tonight

i don't care if you use me again
i don't care if you abuse me again
you can make me i don't care
you can fake me i don't care
you can love me just about anywhere
it's alright

i don't want to feel sorry for you
you don't have to make believe it's you
you can pump me i don't care
you can bump me i don't care
you can love me just about anywhere
it's alright

bye bye love

i can't feel this way much longer
expecting to survive
with all these hidden innuendoes
just waiting to arrive
it's such a wavy midnight
when you slip into insane
electric angel rock and roller
i hear what you're playing

it's an orangy sky
always it's some other guy
it's just a broken lullaby

bye bye love
bye bye love
bye bye love
bye bye love

substitution mass confusion
clouds inside your head
were fogging all my energies
until you visited
eyes of porcelain and blue
could shock me into sense
you think you're so illustrious
you call yourself intense

moving in stereo

life's the same i'm moving in stereo
life's the same except for my shoes
life's the same you're shakin' like tremolo
life's the same it's all inside you

it's so easy to blow up your problems
it's so easy to play up your breakdown
it's so easy to fly through a window
it's so easy to fool with the sound

it's so tough to get up
it's so tough
it's so tough to live up
it's so tough on you

all mixed up

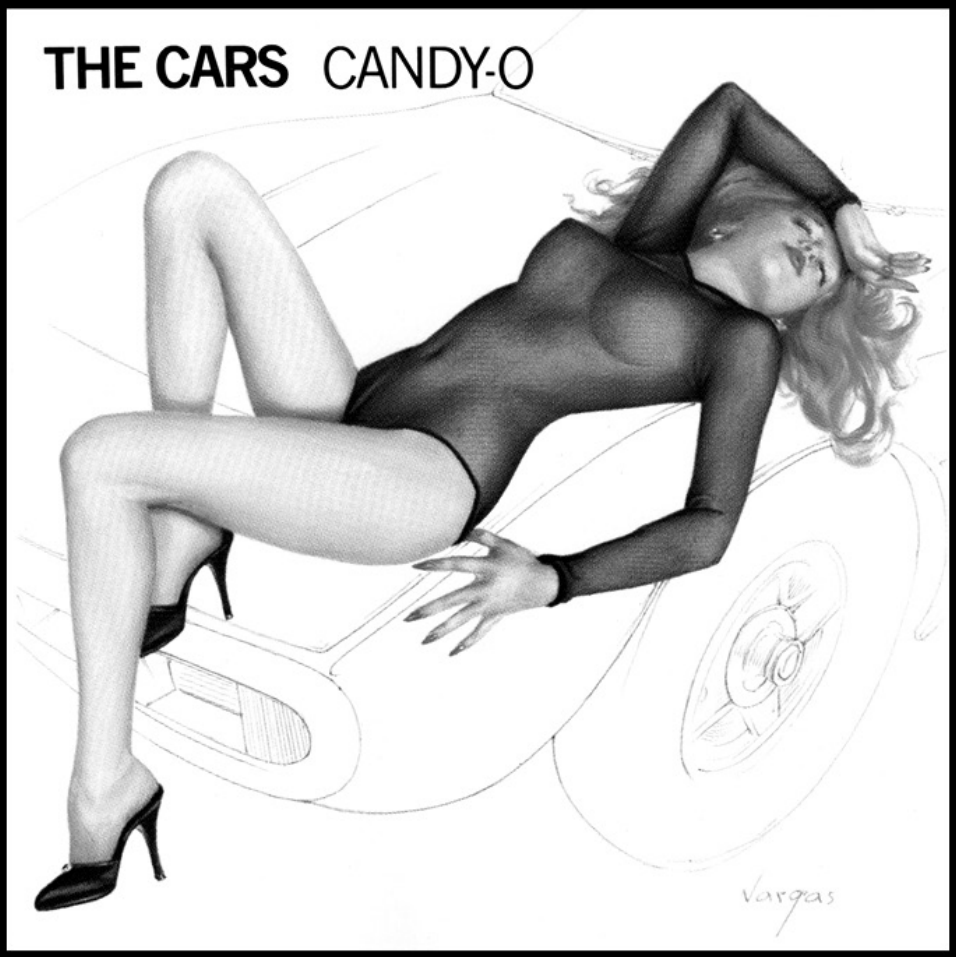
she shadows me in the mirror
she never leaves on the light
some things that i say to her
they just don't seem to bite

it's all mixed up
it's all mixed up
it's all mixed up

she tricks me into thinking
i can't believe my eyes
i wait for her forever
she never does arrive

she says to leave it to me
and everything will be alright
she says to leave it to me
and everything will be alright

she's always out making pictures
she's always out making scenes
she's always out the window
when it comes to making dreams


THE CARS CANDY-O
Vargas

candy-o 1979

let's go

she's driving away
with the dim lights on
she's making a play
and she can't go wrong
she never waits too long

she's winding them down
on her clock machine
and she won't give up
because she's seventeen
she's a frozen fire
she's my one desire

and I don't want to hold her down
don't want to break her crown
when she says, let's go
i like the nightlife baby
she says, I like the nightlife baby
she says
let's go

she's laughing inside
because they can't refuse
she's so beautiful now
she doesn't wear her shoes
she never likes to choose

she's got wonderful eyes
and a risqué mouth
and when I ask her before
she said she's holding out
she's a frozen fire

she's my one desire

since i held you

i really love the way you talk
i don't mind sayin' so
and i love it when you dance
so silky slow
oh baby please don't go

i know you refuse to get involved
you won't help me out none
you run around like a paper doll
pretending it's fun
oh baby please don't run

something in the night
just don't sit right
looks like i'm gonna be up all night, yeah

it's been such a long time
since i held you
it's been such a long time
since I held you

i won't forget the way you said
it doesn't bother you much
tutor impressions in your head
just before the last touch
that meant so much

it's all i can do

one too many times
i fell over you
once in a shadow
i finally grew
and once in a night
i dreamed you were there
i cancelled my flight
from going nowhere

it's all i can do
to keep waiting for you
it's all i can do
one too many times
i twisted the gate
when i was crazy
i thought you were great
i kept my renditions
of you on the wall
where holiday romance
is nothing at all

you wait in the wing
like a saturday flirt
protecting the judge
you don't want to get hurt
once in a moment
it all comes to you
as soon as you get it
you want something new

and I can't tell if you are a ~~fiend~~
~~But your touch~~ in my ear

~~AMOR IT'S A CRIME~~

C TO LEAD A DOUBLE LIFE

IT TAKES A FAST CAR ~~BABY~~ maybe, TO LEAD A DOUBLE LIFE (Am)
IT TAKES A SLOW STAR ~~BABY~~ maybe IF YOU WANT TO DO IT TWICE (Am)
G YOU TAKE YOUR BACK SEAT RUMBLE
F YOU TAKE YOUR FRONT SEAT WIFE
IT TAKES A FAST CAR ~~BABY~~ maybe, TO LEAD A DOUBLE LIFE (Am) HOLD
~~stay~~ me down to ~~your~~ STUCK INSIDE THE G
~~SEE THE MOTO~~ WONDERMAZE, ALIENATION IS THE CRAZE
~~AND IT'S ALL GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU~~ (Am) F
~~AND YOU THINK IT'S A SHAME, YOU MAY THINK IT'S A GAME~~

Bridge (4)

IT TAKES A LIGHT FOOT ~~BABY~~, TO LEAD A DOUBLE LIFE
IT TAKES A GOOD LOOK ~~BABY~~ maybe, IF YOU WANT TO DO IT TWICE
WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE STOP LIGHT
YOU BETTER GET THE SIGNAL RIGHT
IT TAKES A LIGHT ~~FOOT~~ ~~BABY~~ maybe, TO LEAD A DOUBLE LIFE

IT TAKES A PREGNANT ~~BABY~~ maybe TO LEAD A DOUBLE LIFE
IT TAKES SOME LEATHER ~~BABY~~ IF YOU WANT TO DO IT TWICE
NEON BLINKING ON THE STREET
EVERYONE IS BITTERSWEET
IT TAKES A PREGNANT ~~BABY~~ TO LEAD A DOUBLE LIFE
~~and you hit the pedestrian drive sunk into your brain~~
as (3) - chorus turn around
and you ~~something you turned you were in the train~~
~~AND AS PART OF THE THING THAT YOU DO~~
~~and you call [illegible] when you feel romance~~
~~and a part of the the~~ ~~take the risk~~

double life

it takes a fast car lady
to lead a double life
it takes a slow star lady
if you want to do it twice
you take your backseat rumble
take your frontseat wife
it takes a fast car lady
to lead a double life

it takes a light foot lady
to lead a double life
it takes a good book maybe
if you want to do it nice
when you idle at the stoplight
you better get the signal right
light foot lady you lead a double life

lift me from the wondermaze
alienation is the craze
and it's all gonna happen to you
and you think it's a phase
and it's all gonna happen to you
when you drive in a haze

it takes a freeway lady
to lead a double life
it takes some leeway lady
if you want to do it twice
neon blinking on the street
everyone is bittersweet
freeway lady you lead a double life

shoo be doo

it's funny honey but you don't care
you never want to take me anywhere
you ride around in your cadmium car
you keep wishin' upon a star
why is it you don't care
don't you go making eyes at me
don't remind me
don't you tell me what to do
shoo be doo
shoo be doo
don't you tell me what to do
don't you tell me what to do
shoo be doo
don't you tell me what to do
shoo be doo

candy-o

candy-o i need you
sunday dress ruby rings
candy-o i need you so
could you help me in
purple hum assorted cards
razor lights you bring
all to prove
you're on the move and vanishing

candy-o i need you so
candy-o i need you so

the edge of night distract yourself
obstacles don't work
homogenize decentralize
it's just a quirk
different ways to see you through
all the same in the end
peculiar star that's who you are
do you have to win

candy-o i need you so
candy-o i need you so

night spots

could be you're crossing the fine line
a silly driver kinda off the wall
you keep it cool when it's tight
eyes wide open when you start to fall
you go dancing in the dim lit club
some pressure cooker crawls up on his knees
flashing sensation like a one on one
stomping around in the jitterbug breeze
how you shake me up and down
when we hit the night spots on the town
it's all behind you when you do catch on
you keep your lovers in a penny jar
a real romantic with a sultry stare
you keep on messing with your blonde long hair
how you shake me up and down
when we hit the night spots on the town
it's just an automatic line
it's just an automatic line

you can't hold on too long

i can't put out your fire i know it's too late
i can't be up for hire it's not my best trait
the gallow glass is cracking it's starting to smash
how can you cry without blinking a lash

you're feeling cross and wavy on the edge of the cuff
you're pushing and popping you don't get enough
you wish that it was over you never slow down
you're looking for kicks there's nothing around

you can't hold on too long it's alright
you can't hold on too long it's alright

you're surrounded by the laughing boys
they puncture your style
they send for their bandanas you try for their smile
you'd like to come in colors you don't know which one
you can't be too choosy it's just for fun

lust for kicks

he's got his plastic sneakers
she's got her roebuck purse
he's got his butane flicker
she's got it worse

they're crazy about each other
like a misplaced fix
they're mad about each other
they blame it all on the lust for kicks

he's got his own dumbwaiter
she's reading one fell swoop
he gets around to it later
she fills the scoop

he's just a hit parader
she's just a cyclone ride
he likes to masquerade her
and she tells him lies

got a lot on my head

got a lot on my head
most of it is you
got a lot on my head
can't forget about you

lock me away where the silly boys go
i'm on top of my nerves don't you know
take me apart 'cause I'm out of control
send me a letter on a midnight scroll

dance by the window in flamingo pink
go through the motions in your romeo mink
condition's red disposition's blue
why am I so attracted to you

trip down the alleyway take the back stairs
i know it's good but good isn't fair
that's what you said flashbulb in your eye
how can I hold you when you're waving good-bye

THE DANGEROUS TYPE

CAN I TOUCH YOU, ARE YOU OUT OF TOUCH
I GUESS I NEVER NOTICED THAT MUCH
~~FURNACE~~ GERANIUM COVER, I'M LIVE ON YOUR STAR
COME AND TAKE ME, WHOEVER YOU ARE

INSIDE ~~ANGEL~~, ~~ALWAYS~~ ALWAYS UPSET
KEEPS ON FORGETTING, THAT WE EVER MET
CAN I BRING YOU OUT IN THE LIGHT
MY CURSOUITY'S GOT ME TONIGHT alright

SHE'S A LOT LIKE YOU
THE DANGEROUS TYPE
OH SHE'S A LOT LIKE YOU
COME ON AND HOLD ME TIGHT

THE ~~[redacted]~~ museum DIRECTORS, WITH THEIR THIGH SHAKING HEARTS
KICK WHITE SHADOWS, UNTIL YOU PLAY OCEAN
OONA I WANT TO CRACK YOUR ALIBI CANVAS WITH YOUR, CROSSWORD SMILE
CAN I ~~[redacted]~~ SHAKE BREAK YOU OUT FOR AWHILE

dangerous type

can i touch you are you out of touch
i guess i never noticed that much
geranium lover i'm live on your wire
come and take me whoever you are

she's a lot like you
the dangerous type
she's a lot like you
come on and hold me tight

inside angel always upset
keeps on forgetting that we ever met
can i bring you out in the light
my curiosity's got me tonight

the museum directors with their high shaking heads
they kick white shadows until they play dead
they want to crack your crossword smile
can i take you out for a while

THE CARS
PANORAMA

panorama 1980

panorama

i'm going to get what's coming to me
no surprises no impressions
hey what's wrong with you tonight
just sitting on your can can
doing the panoram

with nothing to contemplate
with nothing to search for
with nothing to integrate
with nothing to do
except think about you
with nothing to do
except fall for blue

i just want to be in your panorama
i just want to be in your panorama

i'm going to take what's coming to me
no entanglements and no compromise
get the picture i'm on my knees
looking at your hot shot
turning down your offer

well i'm ripping it up
i'm looking away
i'm pulling my flag up
i'm miles away
with nothing to do
except think about you

i just want to be in your panorama
i just want to be in your panorama

i'm going to find my way out of here
no pushing the buttons
no deals with daddy-o
i'm going to get myself in trouble
and i'll take my chances
if i break your bubble

touch and go

all I need is what you've got
all I'll tell is what you're not
all you know is what you hear
i get this way when you come near

then i know it's gone too far
oh oh I touched your star
and it felt so right
like the hush of midnight
until you said
with me it's touch and go

all I need is you tonight
i'm flying like a cement kite
in your headlock on the floor
who could ever ask for more

all i want is you tonight
i guess that dress does fit you tight
and how that look does make me shake
it almost looks too good to fake

Gimme Some Slack

I WANT TO SHAKE LIKE LIGUARDIA
MAGIC MOUTH IN THE SUN
TRAIN RIDE TO THE COURTYARD
BEFORE YOU CAN RUN
DOWN AT THE END OF LONELY STREET
WHERE NOONE LIKES TO WALK
SOMEONES LYING AT YOUR FEET
AND SOMEONES GETTING OFF

THE SEVEN FLOORS OF WALKUP
THE ODOR MUSTED CRACKS
THE PEEPING KEYHOLE INTROVERTS
WITH THE MONKEYS ON THEIR BACKS
THE ROOFTOPS STRUNG WITH FRAULEINS
THE PASTEL PINNED UP SAILS
THE EIGHTEEN COLOR ROSES
AGAINST YOUR FACE SO PALE

I WANT TO FLOAT LIKE EURIPIDES
ALL VISIONS INTACT
I'M ALRIGHT WITH ~~[illegible]~~ FILLING FEENS
JUMPING OVER THE TRACK
DOWN AT THE END OF LONELY STREET
WHERE NO ONE TAKES A CHANCE
SOMEONES IN THE CHEAP LIGHTS
AND SOMEONE WANTS TO DANCE

gimme some slack

i want to shake like laguardia
magic mouth in the sun
train ride to the courtyard
before you can run
down at the end of lonely street
where no one takes a walk
someone's lying at your feet
and someone's getting off
just gimme some slack
just gimme some slack
just gimme some slack
the seven floors of walk-up
the odor musted cracks
the peeping keyhole introverts
with the monkeys on their backs
the rooftops strung with fräuleins
the pastel pinned up sails
the eighteen color roses
against your face so pale
i want to float like euripides
all visions intact
i'm alright with fellini fiends
tripping over the track
down at the end of lonely street
where no one takes a chance
someone's in the cheap light
and someone wants to dance

don’t tell me no

it’s my party you can come
it’s my party have some fun
it’s my dream have a laugh
it’s my life have a half

don’t tell me no
don’t tell me no
don’t tell me no

it’s my transition it’s my play
it’s my phone call to betray
it’s my hopscotch light the torch
it’s my downtime feel the scorch

it’s my ambition it’s my joke
it’s my teardrop emotional smoke
it’s my mercy it’s my plan
i want to go to futureland

getting through

i don't want to be your party doll
all flaked out in tinseltown
circus mouth shooting all directions
with tv ads that sell erections

i got no clue what they want to do with you
it's just getting through, getting through to you

living outside the misdemeanor
some get lost and some are screamers
it's easy to tell the great pretender
broken wings and flip top fenders

i don't want to be your suffering box
argue art or untie your knots
i don't want to be your bad connection
or fit into your reality vision

American Misfit Kid

I dream frequently sometimes they come out funny
I go through insanity all they want is money
All these parties get so ritual
The same sea of faces
Always Pushing, Always Pulling, Always in the Races

I get cooled out
I get the come ons
I get Rumbled
I get crumbled

I'm the American misfit kid
Still wondering what I did
I'm on the inside taking a fast ride

I'm stiletto so so sharp I'm willing to cut
Sometimes nebulous I'm ready to strut
Lost and frantic new age romantic.
Checking out the race
Never cared about what it meant
Always loved Discoase

I get Rythym
I get corn flakes
I get Fast Love
I get wasted absurdity

I dream frequently sometimes the come out funny
I toy with obscenity never shoot the dummy
All these parties. get so ritual
Lonely Hearts and aces
Always [redacted], always [redacted], [redacted] in the Race

misfit kid

i dream frequently
sometimes they come out funny
i live with absurdity
always warm and runny
all these parties get so habitual
the same sea of faces
always pushing always pulling
always in the races

i get cooled out
i get the come ons
i get rumbled
i get crumbled

i'm the american misfit kid
still wondering what I did
i'm on the inside taking a fast ride

i'm stiletto so so sharp
and i'm willing to cut
sometimes nebulous
i'm ready to strut
lost and frantic
new age romantic
checking out the race
never cared about what it meant
always loved disgrace

i get rhythm
i get cornflakes
i get fast love
i get wasted

down boys

you were trying to be cute
and it didn't work out
you were trying to be charming
and it didn't come off
you were trying to be clever
a big waste of time
you were trying to get rough
but you're waiting in line

you can't make it with the down boys
they don't hear a word you say
you can't make it with the down boys
just stay out of their way

you were trying to be sharp
but they couldn't wait
you were trying to be eternal
but that didn't rate
you were trying to be smooth
you're rough on the edges
you were trying to be hysterical
but no one's laughing

you were trying to be in
but they left you out
you were trying to be in
two different worlds
you were trying to be in
oscillation in shame
you were trying to be in
but you're lost in the game

you wear those eyes

you wear those eyes that never blink
you always were the missing link
you paint your mouth you let me know
you really are the only show

just take your time
'cause it's not too late
i'll be your mirror
so you won't hesitate
i'm easy to be found
whenever you come down

you got that walk you do the stroll
you make me lose my ground control
you got that look i can't resist
like something missing never kissed

you do the pogo without the bounce
you got the name i can't pronounce
you fall in love you like the sting
you make believe it's everything

running to you

i'm coming around
i want you to come
i'm coming around
just for the fun

i'm having a real time
taking what's not mine
and I'm doing what I want to do

that's running to you

you're looking for someone
maniacal shots
you're looking for someone
over the top

i'm having a real time
reading your headline
and i'm doing what i want to do

that's running to you

you're hoping for someone
that fits in the plan
you're hoping for someone
two in the hand

i'm having a real time
taking what's not mine
and i'm doing what i like to do

that's running to you

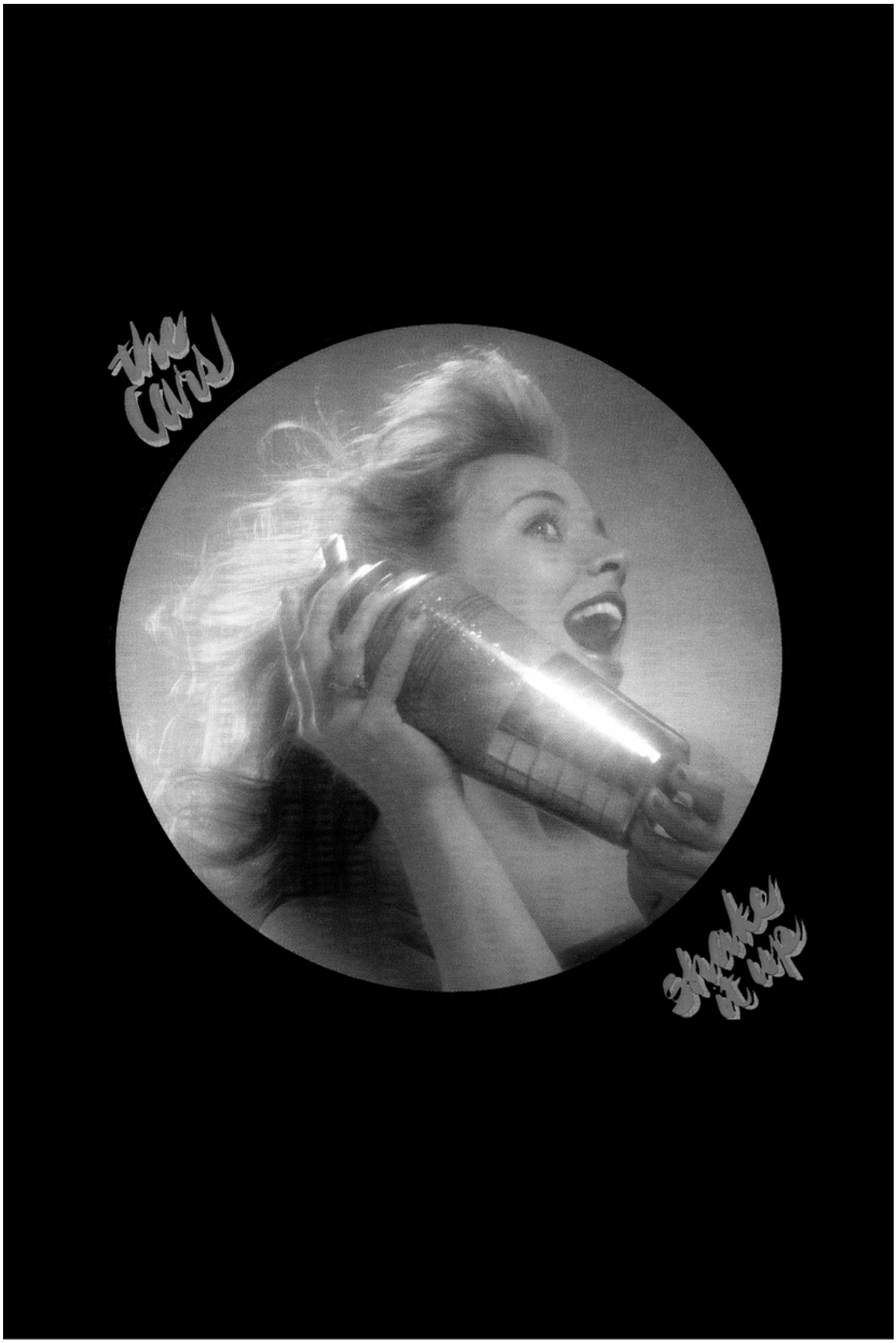
up and down

do you have to be so hard to get
especially with those emerald eyes
you might have been a neon lover
but you didn't have to advertise
well come on well come on

you might have been a crack shot shooter
hung up on your figurine
under the cold and darkly sky
you're the only light i've seen
well come on well come on

and it happens every time
i'm still hanging on the line
don't want to go up and down

you don't have to be so tough
i'll tell you when i've had enough
you don't have to reek with charm
you won't have to twist my arm


the cards
shake it up

shake it up 1981

a dream away

five in the morning all alone in your room
door locked tight private moon
no faces to face no one to blame
nonexistent inside this frame

take it on the run is just a dream away

there's a cheetah walking high
liquid whispers dragonfly
charleston booties painted toes
drop the knot ivory soul

take it on the run
the good life is just a dream away

choke emotion lose control
chicken counters fill your bowls
the lonely crowd is decomposed
lost obsession future froze

cruiser

big city noise disappears
sucker punch is in your heart
light is reason light is clue
my shape is shapeless in your suit

chrome red eyeballs reflect and roll
simple sun is slowly sinking
roman shoes and pretty hats
glitter bombs that beat the beat

you comb the night 'cause you're a cruiser
and you never get enough
when you're cruising down the street
and you're chasing off the heat
when you're on the moonlight run

floating jets and big vignettes
get the treatment grab a cab
set aside the screaming fish
tell the world why you're so glad

flip the switches pull the plug
you always wait for better news
you need a hit you need a slug
you don't easily get amused

i'm not the one

i'm not the one that you'll be shooting for
i'm not the one who's coming back for more
you know why
we've been through this
so many times
you know why
it's never clear it's
pantomime

going 'round and 'round 'cause you
can't get on your feet
going 'round and 'round still taking
all the heat
going 'round and 'round never
never touching down

i'm not the one whose memory you still keep
i'm not the one who's talking in your sleep
you know why
i don't have to tell you twice
you know why
i knew when you
weren't so nice

i'm not the one that you'll be breaking in
i'm not the one who could be taken in
you know why
i tried and tried to
crack the shell
you know why when you fake
it's hard to tell

maybe baby

i heard stories about you
i'd like to think that they were true
i did not know you'd be like that
with those surprises under hat

be my maybe baby
be my maybe baby
be my maybe baby

when you dance between the stars
in the night late sweet and dark
turn them over one by one
you don't need to jump the gun

when the night is feeling flush
when the night is all a hush
electric look eclectic blue
keep one dream that won't come true

shake it up

dance all night play all day
don't let nothing get in the way
dance all night keep the beat
don't you worry 'bout two left feet
just shake it up

dance all night get real loose
you don't need no bad excuse
dance all night with anyone
don't let nobody pick your fun
just shake it up

dance all night go go go
dance all night get real low
go all night get real hot
shake it up until you pop

dance all night whirl your hair
make the night cats stop and stare
dance all night go to work
do the move with quirky jerk
just shake it up

since you're gone

since you're gone the nights are getting strange
since you're gone nothing's making sense
since you're gone i stumble in the shade
since you're gone everything's
in perfect tense

i can't help it when you fall apart
i can't help it i guess you better start
that is forgetting about you

since you're gone
the nights are getting strange
since you're gone
i'm throwing it all away

i can't help it everything's a mess
i can't help it you're so treacherous
when it comes to tenderness

since you're gone i miss the peak sensation
since you're gone i took the big vacation
since you're gone i never feel sedate
since you're gone the moonlight ain't so great

think it over

every time i see you i got to jump and shout
i haven't got a clue to what it's all about
i never had a dream that looked so much like you
i'd do anything that you want me to

think it over
think it over
there's nothing you could do to make me want to stop
think it over
think it over
every time you run around it makes me want to pop

what's it going to take to make you change your line
what's it going to take to get your valentine
how can i be sure that you're the one for me
i only know that you wanted to be free

this could be love

oh yeah i got time
oh yeah i guess i'm doing fine
till i met you in the dark
i was chasing little sparks
you were slinked and dressed in pink
here with someone you wouldn't think

is this the kill
is this the thrill
i'll wait until you say
this could be love

oh yeah i got hope
oh yeah it comes and goes
till i met you things were easy
till i met you things were sleazy
doesn't matter once i told
you were someone i could hold
this could be love

oh yeah i need you
oh yeah more than you want me to
till i met you in the dark
i was chasing little sparks
when you think you're going to sink
here comes someone you wouldn't think

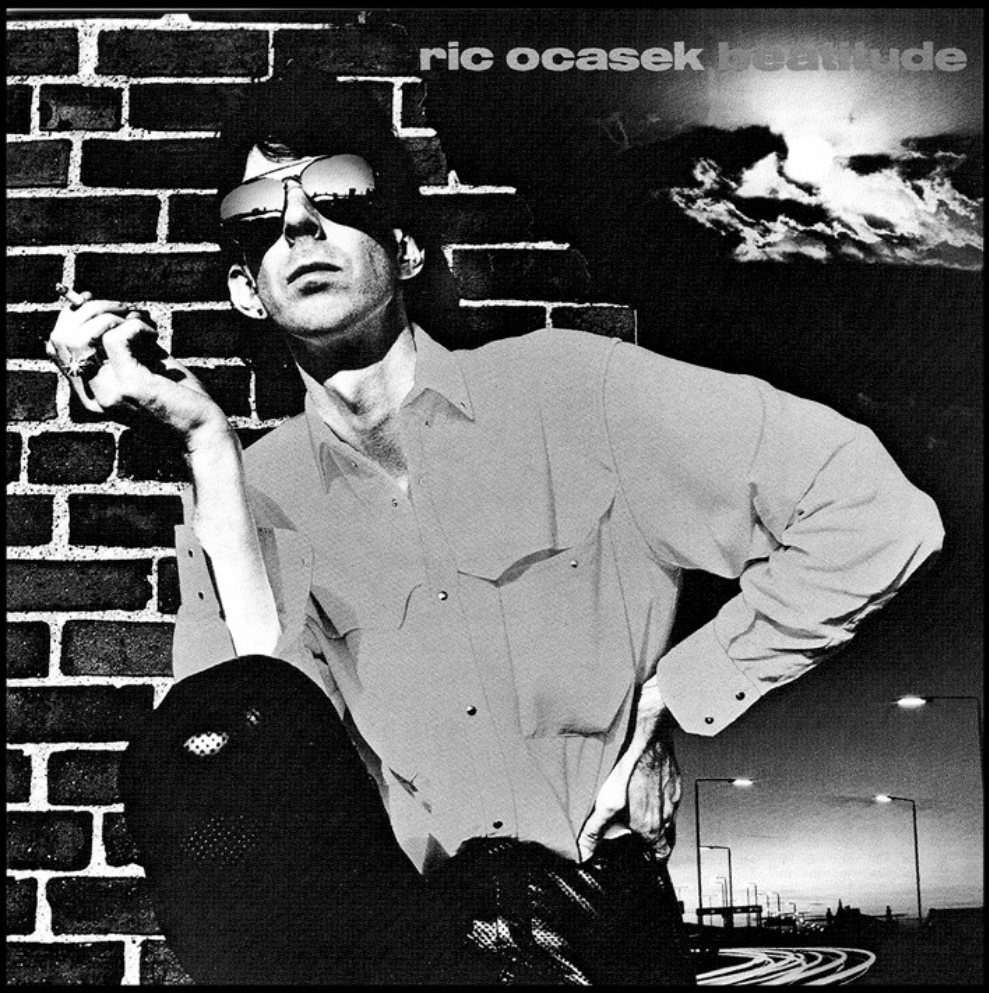
victim of love

she can take you anywhere she wants to
she can show you things that make you weak
she can make you think that you're the only one
she can steal your heart with just one wink

she'll hold you tight, she won't let go
she'll make it last, put on a show
she'll tell you things that you should not know
'cause you're the victim, the victim of love
framed by the night, touched by the glove
you're the victim, the victim of love

she can freeze you when she doesn't want to talk
she can work it on in, she can go take a walk
she can have it or leave it, she can do the skidoo
you better believe it, she's having fun on you

when she's calling you out, you better run to her
when she's just falling out, you better care
when she needs somebody, you better run to her
when she gives in too soon it's just not fair


ric ocasek beatitude

beatitude 1982

jimmy jimmy

hey jimmy
what's the matter with you tonight
nothing to do
can't think of anything to do
got to get out of here
go out and watch a fight
open up some heads
go for life
that's not dead

got to get some kixs instead
of just sitting around
thinking about what's wrong
with everything in your life
tonight
you can't see too well
what's going on
but there's something going on
that you don't know about

america
nobody's getting off
we're all in this together
nobody's getting off
it must be now or never

hey jimmy
they're calling you back
they want you to come back
and take out the garbage
they want to talk to you
about something

they found in your drawer
under a hustler magazine
they want you to cool out
and ignore your problems
they want you to stay in line
what happened to my baby
where did he go wrong
why can't he be like other kids just go along
what's the matter with these kids today

hey jimmy
you don't look so good tonight
are you depressed
or something
you look spaced out
isn't there something
you could be doing
instead of watching tv
or listening to the fm
don't you want to think about nothing
don't you want to do something
are you pretending
nothing's wrong

something to grab for

if you want to hang on my shoulder
i'm standing here
if you want to do it all over
let me get near
if you were another pretender
i'd pass you by
if you were a lost weekender
maybe i'd try

when you gonna give me something to grab for
when you gonna put it in my sight
when you gonna give me something to grab for
when you gonna show me what it's like

if you want to talk about it
i got the time
when you're looking so enchanted
you cover my mind
if you think i'll wait forever
maybe you're right
there's no such thing as now or never
there's only twilight

if you want to take it lightly
i won't make a sound
if you want to make me over
i won't turn you down

prove

you could show me all your photographs
you could leave me hanging high
you could tell me about the mystery
hiding in your eyes
there's one too many reasons
why i should be with you
but i'll just be in season
just like you want me to

you don't have to prove a thing
pretty girl pretty girl

you could tell me secrets
that i would only keep
you can have your soup du jour
when you're fast asleep
when you turn me over
i won't waste your time
put on your precious makeup
you won't stand in line

i'm standing in your doorway
i know you'll never lock it
i won't try to walk away
with something in my pocket
everything you want to do
it easily gets done
even on a rainy day
you could pull the sun

i can't wait

for your love
i can't wait
for your touch
i can't wait
for your slinky smile
i can't wait
for your angel heart
i can't wait

'cause when you hold me
i melt away
and when you hold me
i want to stay
night to night
day to day
i just can't wait
for your love

for your whisper soft
i can't wait
for your bright night eyes
i can't wait
for your silky sway
i can't wait
i'd be so glad if you came today
i can't wait

connect up to me

you talk close to me
i know your ways
i feel your dreams
you talk close to me
fairy domes and princesses
living in illusion
touch me free

i need your night-light
close to me
i need your night life
fantasy
when the dance night flies
and the broadway screams

connect up with me
i feel your heartbeat
pounding soft
i'm taking off
you stick close to me
the right intrusion
is what we need
the touch is free
i'm watching your slick trick
still life moving
and ever so softly
letting it go
still by windows
some are still running
thinking they dreamt you
but never to know

a quick one

how about a quick one
the endless night
has just begun

you know it's never like it seems
and when you wake up
it's going to feel just like a dream
so won't you hold on hold on
don't you leave me here tonight
everything will be alright

i know it's hard for you to take
and in the distance
you don't want to make the same mistake
so won't you hold on
don't want to lose your dawn delight
don't want to ever say good night

there's going to be blue stars tonight
and when you wake up
there's going to be a different light
so won't you hold on hold on
don't you leave me here tonight
everything will be alright

i don't need a stranger's touch
just for something new
i'm not looking for too much
but love is overdue
you think it's too good to be true
when you wake up
there's someone fallin' over you

out of control

well someday you'll be sorry
that you fucked around and waited
for amsterdam and lily-white
so heavenly sedated
it's faster than a speeding bullet
tonight someone's blasted
it's easier for you to tell
why no one ever lasted

keep it out of control

you don't have to think too much
we're all trying to help you out
show you how to save yourself
so you got no doubts
prima donna jesus moon
you'll be waiting now forever
some people call you speedo
they just think they're so clever

keep it out of control

in the thick black night
blow tray can you see
fly the pawns curly sight
it's the easy way out
it's the double take hidden
it's the long-gone beach lawn
infested with headlights
touched
instrument landing
keep it out of control

take a walk

under the cold and darkly sky
you trip the light and go
through the love gates sweet and wild
how close you'll never know

take a walk take a walk down
you got to split this crazy town
take a walk take a walk down
you got to turn this life around

i remember the night you ran
just a prisoner of the dark
you were waving that chinese fan
trying to hit the easy mark

take a walk take a walk down
take a look around
take a walk take a walk down
you got to turn this dream around

you were taking off by yourself
you were searching for a safety place
still hoping for a little help
showing off a little lace

take a walk take a walk down
take a look around
take a walk take a walk down
you got to turn this life around
take a look take a look around

sneak attack

suffocation in the center
paradoxical on the edges
we're shooting the moon
watch out for rockets

cold cream windows nervous smiles
back to blankets for a while
wasted children dance alone
living in the gone world

it's a silent flight
for a satellite
sneak attack

who's going to wake you up
when they come for you
pinch of life burns and flies
vigilante mode elite
locked into a red heat

it's a silent flight
for a satellite
sneak attack
we're shooting the moon
watch out for rockets

time bomb

i live in a world
of manufactured joy
and factory parts
i live in a world
of dancing lips
and prima donnas
i live in a world
of dime-store dummies
and slingshot rummies
i live in a world
of lonely hearts
and dispassionate pigs
i live in a world
of murderers
and priests
i live in a world
of pistols
and doomsayers
i live in a world
of computer games
and cops
i live in a world
of war
and wigwams
and i'm sitting on a time bomb
i live in a world
of businessmen
and breath soap
i live in a world
of confusion
and uncertainty
i live in a world

of glamour
and god fear
i live in a world
of tv news
and blowups

i live in a world
of wasted envy
and beatitudes
i live in a world
of technology
and tinsel
i live in a world
of garbage strikes
and jackknives
i live in a world
of night screams
and rainbows
and i'm sitting on a time bomb

THE CARS
Heartbeat City

heartbeat city 1984

hello again

you might have forgot
the journey ends
you tied your knots
you made your friends
you left the scene
without a trace
one hand on the ground
one hand in space

you passed on mercy
you tried the rest
you gave your body
you gave the best
staring at the green door
living in the sky
you don't want to know it
you just want to fly

hello again
hello again
hello again

i know you're a dreamer
who's under the gun
i know you're a dreamer
who's only just begun
and when there's nothing
nothing left to lose
you leave it all
to fade to blue

you want to feel electric

you want to feel loose
you want to be eclectic
you want to call a truce
looking at the profile
staring at the flame
waiting for the sunshine
standing in the rain

looking for love

come on lover
make the switch
pull the cover
make a wish
find out later
it's all right
keep the faith
kill the light

you can't stop
but you can't go on
you can't stop
but it won't be long

here she comes
looking for love
here she comes
looking for love

come on lover
do it fast
take advantage
while love lasts
limited edition
you're the one
walking the edge
don't you run

magic

summer turns me upside down
summer summer summer
it's like a merry-go-round
i see you under the midnight
all shackles and bows
how far will you take it
well no one knows
don't let me go

i got a hold on you
i got a hold on you
i got a hold on you tonight

oh oh it's magic
when i'm with you
oh oh it's magic
you know it's true
got a hold on you

twisted under sideways down
i know you're getting twisted
and you can't calm down
i see you under the midnight
love darts in your eyes
how far can you take it
till you realize
there's magic in your eyes

drive

who's gonna tell you when
it's too late
who's gonna tell you things
aren't so great
you can't go on
thinking nothing's wrong
who's gonna drive you home tonight

who's gonna pick you up
when you fall
who's gonna hang it up
when you call
who's gonna pay attention
to your dreams
who's gonna plug their ears
when you scream
you can't go on
thinking nothing's wrong
who's gonna drive you home tonight

who's gonna hold you down
when you shake
who's gonna come around
when you break

stranger eyes

you took the fall
you floated down
you took the jump
you fell through clouds
you watched the world
beat the crowd

ride me high
stranger eyes

you took the fall
you landed soft
thought to yourself
well i'm not alone
with your dark red soul
and your chaperone

ride me high
stranger eyes

you might think

you might think i'm crazy
to hang around with you
maybe you think i'm lucky
to have something to do
but i think that you're wild
and inside me is some child
you might think i'm foolish
or maybe it's untrue
you might think i'm crazy
but all i want is you

you might think it's hysterical
but i know when you're weak
you think you're in the movies
and everything's so deep
but i think that you're wild
when you flash that fragile smile
you might think it's foolish
what you put me through
you might think i'm crazy
but all i want is you

and it's hard so hard to take
there's no escape without a scrape
you kept it going till the sun fell down
you kept it going

you might think i'm delirious
the way i run you down
but somewhere sometime
when you're curious
i'll be back around

and i think that you're wild
and so uniquely styled
you might think it's foolish
this chancy rendezvous
you might think i'm crazy
but all I want is you

it's not the night

it's not the night
for fooling
it's not the night
for crazy eyes
i get the feeling
you want to stay
i get the feeling
you're giving it all away

but i know
i know you take it well
and for you
for you i always fell

it's not the night
for sweet revenge
it's not the night
to end

the time is right
to take it out
the time is right for tango
i get the feeling
you're running out
before your last fandango

i get the feeling
you're the spark
that's dancing in the dark
i get the feeling
you're the one
rushing on the run

why can't i have you

dreamy lips
set in motion
flashing
breathless hush
pounding soft
lasting
glossy mouth
taste untamed
moving
carousel up and down
just like you

oh baby
just one more time to touch you
just one more time to tell you
you're on my mind
i'm not so blind

baby why can't i have you
you're breaking my heart in two
you know what i'm going through
oh baby why can't i have you

candy smile
all the while
glinting
your eyes like mica
lethal pout
hinting
felt the pressure
tight and warm
softly striking

i tripped and stumbled
i cling forever
i go all night

i refuse

everything's heaven-sent
that's what you said and went
inside your fairy glass
is something you think will last
and when they crop you like a clown
you got your smile on upside down

baby i refuse
you can pick or choose
find somebody else to use
'cause i refuse to come along

everything's on a whim
that's what you said to him
lying in wunderlust
are feelings you never trust
and when they pamper you with ice
i can't believe you don't think twice

everyone makes the play
with nothing much left to say
all in an endless line
waiting for equal time
they keep screaming it's the truth
and you keep kneeling in the booth

heartbeat city

oh heartbeat city
here we come
well happy days
we count on thumbs
and nothing really
gets us down
as long as jacki's
back in town

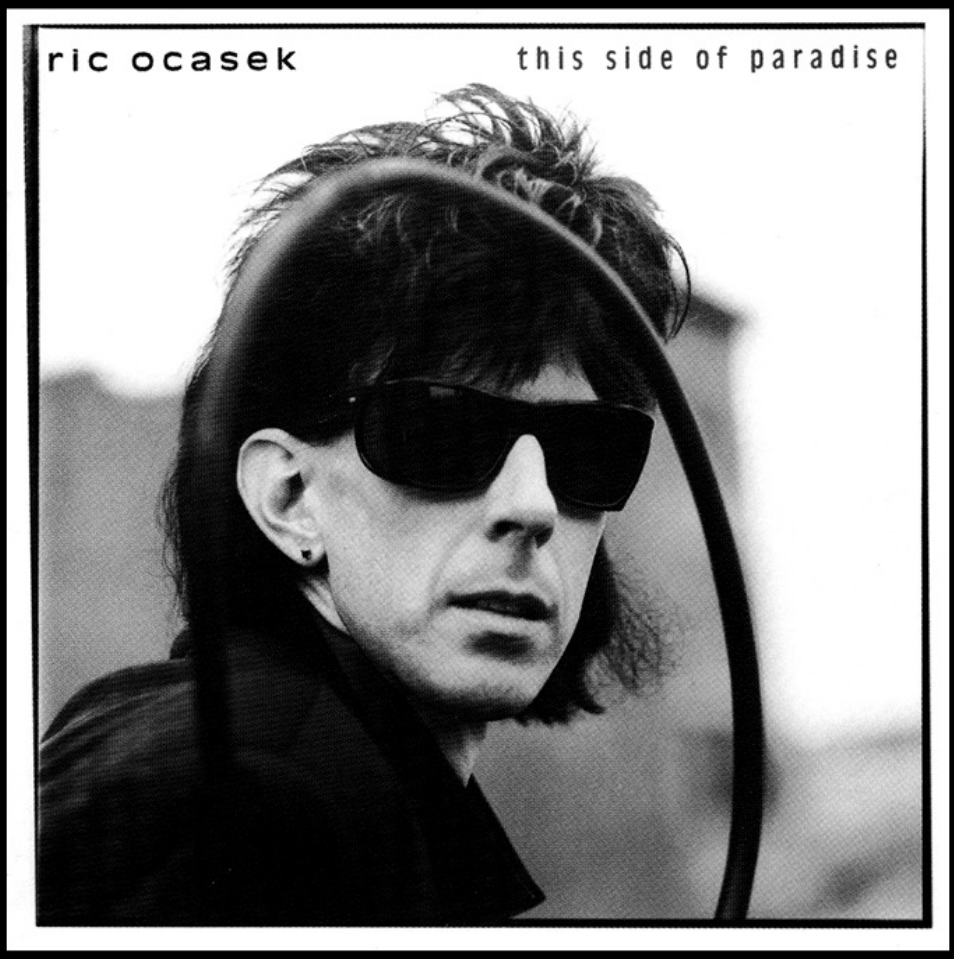
i'm glad you made it
i can't complain
i missed you so badly
when you jumped that train

oh jacki
what took you so long
on just a holiday
oh jacki
what took you so long
i thought you knew the way
i thought you blew away

the noise electric
never stops
and all you need
is what you got
and there's a place
for everyone
under heartbeat city's
golden sun
the noise electric
never stops

and all you need
is what you got
and there's a place
for everyone
under heartbeat city's
golden sun

oh heartbeat city
lights at night
keeps getting closer
out of sight
oh heartbeat city's
on the loose
better catch
the blue caboose


ric ocasek
this side of paradise

this side of paradise 1986

keep on laughin'

you got you when you're coming down
you got you when you want to find it
you got you when you're boggled down
you got you but you can't define it

you got to keep on laughin' laughin'
laughin' in the dark
you got to keep on laughin' laughin'
till you find that spark

you got a feeling well it's up to you
sometimes you want to run away
sometimes you think you do
but you never had a dream like this before
and you don't want to ask for more
sometimes you leave a mark
before you know the score

well it's up to you to turn this night
'cause everybody needs some love
to feel alright

true to you

you look just like a stranger
and they're keeping you down
but still you're feeling the ties
slipping and a sliding
through the lost and found
in your egyptian disguise
what a thrill it is to see you
but i forget your name

oh oh what do you say
can't live on a yesterday
i carry you in my heart
and sometimes the memory smarts

i'm true to you
if you really think you want my love
i'm true to you

you never really wanted
what you already had
but then what have you got
every little feeling
that you tend to bend
you keep it held in a slot
what a thrill it is to see you
but i forget your name

oh oh it's alright
you never want to feel contrite
i carry you in my heart
but sometimes the memory smarts

emotion in motion

i would do anything
to hold on to you
just about anything
until you pull through
i'd hold on to you
till the stars no longer wink
i'd hold on to you
till you figure out
just what to think

you're emotion in motion
my magical potion
you're emotion in motion
to me

i would go anywhere
to meet up with you
just about anywhere
for one rendezvous
i'd hold on to you
till the mountains crumble flat
i'd hold on to you
till you figure out
just where you're at

i would do anything
to hold on to you
just about anything
that you want me to
i'd hold on to you
till you take it all in stride
i'd hold on to you

if you want to stay here
by my side

look in your eyes

there's nothing in here moving
but you know you're not alone
sad escapes and lullabies go home
there's someone trying to reach you
without a cautious doubt
someone you could never figure out

but you felt it all before
you got that look in your eyes
that makes me want to try
you got that look in your eyes

tonight you're full of sorrys
moonlight swims in bittersweet
you never really know just who to keep
it's a question of silence
and propositions that you fear
it's a question of silence or tears

but you held them all before
there's nothing in here moving
but you know you're not alone
sad escapes and lullabies go home
but you've been through this before

coming for you

trim life shadows
flicker and fall
and you still can't turn away
get up and run
before you stall
before the edges fray
you always feel misunderstood
but you did the best you could
they're coming for you

appropriate sunshine
frozen like clay
and you still can't focus clear
elliptical trouble
always missing the lines
and you don't want to stand too near
you thought it was a joke
all that emotional soft smoke
they're coming for you

you still feel a total wreck
but you figure what the heck

mystery

i'll catch you one more time
if i can
and i will dream
the nights we spend
she likes attention
and some proof
her apprehension
tells the truth

but i still feel the same
lost like tears in the rain
i love the mystery of you

you're devastating in the dark
you could be tearing me apart
but you still feel the same
lost like tears in the rain
i love the mystery of you

but keep in mind
that love's the clue
and keep in mind
that it's all for you
and when she wakes up
from her sleep
i want to tell her
it's for keeps

true love

you can tell i fell under your spell
i never felt the same
you knew i was shaken by your smile
you never were too tame
it's hard to free love's insanity
you held me in your hand
and every day someone stays inside you
you want to understand

there's got to be true love true love
true love to make it
there's got to be true love true love
true love to take it

even with all your wires touching
you never did complain
and even with empty arms still clutching
you took it all in vain
you can tell i crawled under your shell
i never felt the rain
but you always knew everything to do
i know you're not to blame

p. f. j.

Well pink flag joe
he pretends he's fast
and long about one day
you know he came in last
well pink flag joe
he does the flambo twist
with the finger motions
that you can't resist

there's no more coming attractions
to see

well pink flag joe
with his wealthy lips
he goes to movies
that don't exist
conversations with people
for the sheer effect
and he says he's a product
of gross neglect

well pink flag joe
you know he's slightly tipped
and he swore his life
that he was gypped
well he felt the pressure
and he passed it off
'cause he thought he resembled
romanoff

hello darkness

the perfect picture
paper doll dream
hazel windows
in velveteen
cadillac soul
in the city heat
jazzy silence
at your feet

hello darkness
good-bye sun
you're my only one

holy clouds
playful light
so reluctant
in silent flight
fragile skin
stroking hands
left in doubt
with no demands

hello darkness
you are my friend
hold me till the end

devil cats
so black and sleek
walking down the alleyway
so hard to meet
sweet sensation
paradoxical dream

curious creatures
in between

hello darkness
my last hotel
sometimes it gets so hard
to tell

this side of paradise

the midnight oyster bellies bug you
from inside you want to scream
the comic cut is your arrival
your reflections are obscene

well you're looking for another end
doing time
but you still can't turn away
well you're looking for a real friend
any kind
that wants to play the games you play

on this side of paradise
you're never going to go through twice
stay tuned at any price
to this side of paradise

cylinder dreams passing in stages
lethargic grins left to bare
broadway windows cubical cages
where escape is fairly rare

you've got to keep yourself well amused
pay no attention to the faulty news
set yourself on automatic cruise
sometimes you just got to lose

The Cars

Door to Door

door to door 1987

leave or stay

i stood beside the rain today
and i twisted out my shirt
she's a cooly you could say
when she gets down to the dirt
she puffs her pillow up so high
it's like she's hanging in the sky
she claims it was some crazy guy
who taught her how to hurt
and kept her so alert

i felt so under sideways down
when she showed me all her prints
i could not help but feel confused
when she threw that heavy hint
she pulled out all her magazines
she spread them out like chocolate dreams
her eyes were shooting dagger beams
she changed into her silk
i stood there drinking milk

i could leave or stay
makes no difference either way

she said don't listen to her words
as if they were all dead
she said she never made decisions
but the last thing that she said
just before she turned the bed
she said i could leave or stay
makes no difference either way

you are the girl

why don't you dream anymore
what's in the way
how come you point to the door
and ask me to stay
why don't you flash that smile
like you used to do
why don't you stay for a while
it's up to you

you are the girl
that keeps me up at night
you are the girl
that makes me feel all right
you are the girl
you give me a twirl
you are the girl
in my dreams

why don't we talk anymore
what did i say
how is it what i came for
is floating away

double trouble

they got a line on you
little bit of trouble too
you got some jets inside
cherry lips and delirious eyes

you get in trouble
and it keeps you down
double trouble
you get in trouble
when you come to town
double trouble

they better chain your hands
spread some evil
pick and pan
you got some jets inside
you have to live
with those empty eyes
you got some jets inside
broken promises
broken pride

fine line

how would i know about your life
how about a long night
how do you follow the sun
how do you stay under the thumb

there's a fine line between us
such a fine fine line
there's a fine line between us
and it's always on my mind

what can you say to make me realize
the full moon in your eyes
you probably know now that you're waking up
you still feel shaken up

there's a fine line between us
all the way
there's a fine line between us
can't waste another day

they take you in their arms and whisper
what you want to hear
don't you fall
they show you all their charms and whisper
don't you shed a tear
don't you fall

everything you say

they can't stop you in the night
twirling wildly in the light
but i know honey it won't take long
feels like it's one on one on one

there must have been a dream in you
stick and fall and follow through
but i know honey it won't take long
feels like it's much too strong too strong

but then you tell me that you can't go on
and you think you're losing sight
don't you worry
you can't go wrong inside

everything you say
leaves me full of shine
everything you say
crosses up my mind
that's everything you say

you could twist a little while
lie there fallin' for a smile
but i know honey you won't give in
feels like when you begin you're in

then you tell me that you can't resist
something happens that you like
you want to know
that you've been kissed good night

when you know it's not for real
i know honey for one long time

it feels like you're endlessly entwined

but i know it's what you did
you can't be in a broken binge
take my heart it's only tin

ta ta wayo wayo

hot sun in the city
the symphony is clear
the girls are so pretty
postcard souvenir

i feel it coming on
hot sun in the city
i feel it coming on

the joints are still ripping
all faces aglow
the hearts are still skipping
ta ta wayo wayo

i feel it coming on
hot sun in the city
i feel it coming on

the transistor beaches
hot tan on white sand
the motel with peaches
it's getting out of hand

i feel it coming on
hot sun in the city
i feel it coming on

strap me in

you took me for a ride
you beat me to the gun
and from the other side
you came undone

but when you tell me to
i want to give it
just like you want me to
oh oh i'm falling through
you better strap me in
all night long
all night long

you took me by the way
you showed me what is fun
just like a ricochet
back you come

and when you tell me to
i want to give it
just like you want me to
oh oh i'm falling through
you better strap me in
all night long

coming up you

how could they leave you standing
holding on to the air
never a hope of landing
didn't they know you cared

you're finding out
it's never quite like it seems
you're finding out
it's never quite like it dreams

didn't you get connected
when things were still upside down
feeling somewhat neglected
turning the tide around

it keeps coming up you again
you're never too hard to find
it keeps coming up you again
they're taking up all your time
it keeps coming up you
coming up you again

however you want to take it
with streamers of violet
if only you could forsake it
it stifles your etiquette

wound up on you

took me long enough to find you
took me long enough to get you there
sometimes i feel like the sunshine lost
and i look for the crumbs you toss

took me long enough to get past your eyes
took me long enough to tranquilize
when you'd be laughing inside the storm
i can still feel your mouth so warm

you'll be back when you need someone
you'll pretend it was just for fun

i'm so wound up on you
i'm so wound up on you
i'm so wound up on you
and i'm easy when you need me

took me long enough to get over
took me long enough to figure out
you never meant to stay around
you never meant to be losing ground
here she comes with that tiptoe walk
and she's ready just to have a talk

go away

i think of you when i fantasize
the best i ever had
and i think of you when i'm driving
myself completely mad

why don't we go
why don't we go away

walkin' on the footbridge
high above the clouds
listening to your yesterday
didn't make a sound
dazzled by your sweet lips
touching on me
here comes something
you don't see

i think of you when i dramatize
the things we never did
and i think of you when i'm flying
or i'm feeling like a kid

door to door

all us angels wearing studs
plastic mouth melts in the sun
running colors everyone
we're all in prison having fun

perfect pictures hang around
delusions swing you up and down
falling out windows climbing up trees
illusions of tranquillity

locks and chains
gonna blow your brains out
locks and chains
never felt a dream like you before
even knocking door to door

herds of people choosing arms
keeps us all in mass alarm
murder movies make your day
living in the usa

cracked up people on the edge
got no heroes got no bread
get the jitters get the shakes
heading for the final take

locks and chains
going to protect you
locks and chains
can't feel no more
never felt a dream like you before
even knocking door to door

living in a dream is all the same

ric ocasek fireball zone

fireball zone 1990

rockaway

you blew your cover
too many times
one for the moment
why don't you give me a sign
come on give me some time

you feel departed
'cause no one's trying
and no one's buying
or electrifying their own
and you feel like a change

on the raceway
it's a touché
violet stingray
you got to get out

you got to rockaway rockaway
leave a little room 'cause
you got to rockaway rockaway

fairies fumble
in the night
rockets stumble
feels like a bumble shot flight
it's so tight
your time is taken
metals flaking
heads are shaking
you're in the bash
oh oh you're going to crash

in a nutshell
there's a real hell
in a bombshell
in an inkwell
gets hard to tell

touch down easy

all the fallin' freeze
the sunlit home of reality
it's a big step for you
but you got nowhere to go
oh don't you try to leave it
in the middle of exploding stars
you don't need covers
for a night

but soon you'll want to wait
settle down in the sea of late
you got to touch down easy
when it's getting dark
you got to touch down easy
to hit the mark
you got to touch down easy
when you feel the spark
'cause i'll be on my way
yeah i'll be on my way

you'll be fallin' free
or else you need a little bit of sunshine
it's a big step for you
i won't see you smile every sunday
i know that you're feeling wobbly
and at times you get so lonely
no one to see no one to tell
that you were feeling that bad but
you got hope
when you look out your window
settle down in the sea of fate

come back

i guess the time is coming
you're going to be out thumbing
looking for another reason
follow it through
i know you think you're winning
everything you've ever given
i can tell you one thing true
i'm stallin' for fallin' for you

but take it with a grain of salt
know that it's not your fault
you can be a little blind sometimes

so won't you come back come back
instant replay come back
don't you kiss those dreams away
come back come back
you've been fallin' away
for so long

you can reserve opinion
you can keep the heads a spinning
doesn't matter what you do
you're keeping it in the fire
tell me if it really matters
tell me if you're getting shattered
tell me if you're satisfied
feeling so starry-eyed

come in for a little while
i know that it's not your style
no such thing as self-denial for you

i guess the time is coming
you're going to be out thumbing
looking for the other side
feeling so starry-eyed
you know it takes a couple of tries
i know sometimes you talk with your eyes
i know you keep it all inside sometimes

the way you look tonight

if i would have been in some other place
wasting time in the nowhere race
oh oh i might have missed
the simple way you talk me down

if i would have taken a different road
or turned away when no one showed
oh oh i might have seen
a different kind of dream
and i might have missed
the way you look tonight

if i would have been in a different world
like i frequently am when i see you
oh oh i might have missed
all the ways you try to give
if only you knew what you do to me
sometimes i think about eternity
if it would have been another time
i wonder what you would have had in mind

all we need is love

maybe you're on a rocket
shooting for the moon and the stars
sometimes it ends up right in your pocket
or you just forget who you are
maybe you're on a mission
trying to get a leg across
but nobody wants to listen
'cause everybody's getting lost

all we need is love
all we need is love
when it comes to push and shove
all we need is love

maybe you'd like a rainbow
forever up in the sky
or some kind of mythical figure
on which you could rely
maybe you'd like a reason
for keeping it all alive
better be ready to change like the seasons
instead of keeping it all inside

maybe you're on a rocket
shooting for the moon and the stars
sometimes it ends up right in your pocket
or tapping on your reservoir

over and over

sometimes you got to look back
and take it all in stride
and sometimes you got to look up
got to jump off that ride

over and over again
it's so good with you
over and over again
it's so good with you

sometimes you're feeling confined
no myth to fight
even when you're looking inside
you can't see the light
somebody's making a play
to hold you tight
somebody wants to keep track
of your fragile insight

flowers of evil

riding on a rickshaw
taking in the sights
passing all the sicko bars
pulling out a light
sucking in the superjets
blowing out the news
feels like a tragedy
i got the slicker city blues

the flowers of evil
the flowers of evil
the flowers of evil
will surely grow

crackle up your color box
count up all your change
make it all seem tolerable
get yourself enraged
give 'em all a sucker punch
bring it to a head
shove it down their throats
all eyes are flashing red

going through the motions of life
dancin' 'neath the stars and the strife
dancin' by the sea stars
shaking up a shirt
throw away your language
keep from getting hurt
fallin' through the night
fallin' through the day
we're living in some faulty times

you can hear them say

they tried

they tried to tear you away
they tried to lie in your face
they tried to tip you off sweetly
they tried to get on your good side
they never got the picture
they never got the joke
they never felt your fire
they only saw the smoke

they tried to tell you what's right
they tried to push you around
they tried to be what you wanted
they tried to get you for nothing
they never felt too conspicuous
they never felt quite right
they never knew your darkness
they only saw your light

they tried to make you out stupid
they tried to come on like cupid
they tried to tell you what's real
they tried to stay on your heels
they never knew what ticked you
they never knew for sure
they always said they picked you
they never knew what for

they tried to pick you apart
they tried to be your best friend

they never got the picture
they never got the joke

they never felt your fire
they only saw the smoke
they tried to pick you apart
they tried to be your best friend

they never got the picture
they never got the joke
they never felt your fire
they only saw the smoke

but they tried they tried they tried
and they kept on tryin'
crying while they lied
they tried to tip you off sweetly
oh they tried and tried
they tried to get on your good side
to get on your good side

keep that dream

i could take you back to that time
conjure up some stories in your mind
you could make excuses for all the pain
get your disposition out of the rain
i could take you back to that time
oh you better hold on tight
you know it's going to be a shaky flight

you got to keep that dream forever
in your starry eyes
you got to keep that dream forever
keep that dream alive

i could take you further than you go
there's something about the dark you should know
everybody's waiting for somebody else
everybody's grating on themselves
oh i could take you closer than you go

balance

you can see the simple stars
the night comes on to you
you can go without a word
no long good-byes for you
but you take it light
and you fly by night

get your balance
keep your balance
get your balance

you could feel your way around
you could knock on any door
even when you turn them down
there's someone wanting more
well you got it made
you better shoot the fade

mister meaner

mister meaner what ya doing downtown
mister meaner you got to get your body down
mister meaner it's what you do for free
you try so hard to slip this fantasy

who could ever take your side
who could ever break your stride
oh miss demeanor you feel electrified
you come unscrewed
you keep keeping it all inside

oh miss demeanor how you feeling tonight
you got a short fuse and you're ready to ignite
who could ever feel your pain
who could ever jump your train

oh miss demeanor who you hitting tonight
you're a big deal now
and you keep turning out their lights
who could ever break your heart
who could ever be so smart

fireball zone

they made you do it
you didn't care
they made you do it
you teased your hair
they asked you why
you did not know
they made you cry
it didn't show

going through commotion
slipping on the steppin' stone
you came to the conclusion
you're playing in the fireball zone

they made you do it
that's what you say
they made you do it
a night to play
they made you swallow
you came around
it made you hollow
you stood your ground
they made you do it
you couldn't fight
they made you do it
to your delight

RIC OCASEK QUICK CHANGE WORLD

quick change world 1993

the big picture

when the big picture
shrinks to a room
to be a spectator of its ritual
presented alone or with a group
noisecians with lighting
artists visuals performed
no separation
noisecians
above the blackout
project sound vitamins
never mind a world
that can't see past brutality
answers are getting the gas
live gestures
have constantly been used
as weapons

don't let go

when you're looking back
you want to catch the ones you missed
'cause when you put your time away
don't want to make that fatal list

don't let go don't let go
don't let go for too long

it's just another holiday
you got a place where you could go
don't want to throw it all away
you just believe in what you know

how many times
will it take to collide
how many times
till you jump off the ride

hard times

you give me hard times
when it's late at night
you give me hard times
you kill my appetite
you're no ventriloquist
but you can throw a kiss
you give me hard times
when the race is tight

you give me bad times
when i'm feeling lost
you give me bad times
when you turn on that frost
you never hesitate
to move in checkmate
you give me hard times
at any cost

i know that sometimes
you get foolish in your heart
i know that sometimes
you can't help but fall apart
you come and go
i catch the afterglow

you give me hard times
when you're coming down
you give me bad signs
when you don't make a sound
you get hysterical
it's all so clerical
you give me hard times

it’s like a shakedown

a little closer

got to be moving something around again
still connected but standing apart till then
but it's alright now
i'm sure you feel it somehow
got to be moving something around again
this could drag on forever
you follow it through

if i could just get close to you
if i could take you there
if i could just get close to you
a little closer than the air
just a little bit closer

it's so exciting when you tell me in that voice
it's so enticing i really haven't got the choice
but you can't pretend
you're going to save it for the end
got to be moving something around again
are you still curious about it
are you still there

riding shotgun

tell me you're ready
when you're feeling dapper
thinking it over should not take so long
what does it matter
all delusions stick around
you want to recover from your empty walls
it's only love, it's only love
and when the picture falters
it's only love

it's riding shotgun straight through your heart
riding shotgun in the dark
it's coming with a real kick start
riding shotgun straight through your heart

all your illusions
they keep you busy lately
all revolutions
fail in the fragile face of time
you only know
it's just a risk you got to take
red drops of pain
making you weak inside

want to be steady
i know you feel it coming
could not decipher
what they really meant to say
caught off guard
wrecking your tinsel-tainted scene
going too far
with a makeshift dream

feeling's got to stay

sometimes when you can't get through
and no one ever comes to you
you got to question one more time
what you're going to find

sometimes when things don't click
and the throes of life are getting thick
the thought of good times linger on
where they don't belong

that feeling's got to stay
even when your time gets broken
that feeling's got to stay
don't let it get away

sometimes when you can't think straight
and the other side is looking great
you hear the whispers in the dark
make the same remark

she's on

fake me out of control
put my mind on solid ground
push me to the threshold
turn it all around
i was gone and you were deep
i want to know if it's for keeps
i want to dream but i get no sleep

you know they tell me
she's on
she flies away
she's on
whatever they say
she's on
she finds a way
and takes whatever comes along

step me 'round the sinkholes
call me when you're coming down
push me to the threshold
turn it all around
mirror mirror getting wired
mirror mirror real desire
when you slip into that silky mood
i get the feeling that you're being rude

i still believe

i sit on fire one night
i stay on fire through life
'cause i feel things
you'll never know
and i feel things
i dare not show
but i still believe

come alive

when i try to sit tight
i get nervous and confused
people's faces melt into
that look you always use
they set you up with dignity
they pull you down in pain
you have no control
so you really can't complain

i don't want to give you lip
or bust your christmas chops
stand up on a mountain
with a beer can and a mop
they scream until their neck bleeds
and jack off in the wind
feeling all the power
it takes to be a general
it takes to be a president
it takes to be a healer
it takes to be a clown
you gotta come alive

ok so it's nothing
nothing's what it is
you can say it's idiotic
i can say it's his
you can find adventure
in someone else's life
or you can criticize
when you need a lift

quick change world

the quick change world is fallin' down
and it sweeps you off your feet
your razzle-dazzle cinnamon mind
keeps you so complete
keeps you on your feet

well the blue denim dream in the victim line
is staring at the tube
riding on the flat board
toward the tin town tomb
'cause they got some room
in the hall of doom

well the black rain now is running down
and you're feeling like a scud
like a typical mata hari
pulling out the plug
frozen on the fear train
failing to survive
sitting on a bench in the park
and looking for something in your eye

oh my god is this the end
this crazy world we must defend
beneath the stars
we have our feast
but most of all
the quick change world is fallin' down
if you're looking through the years
dance beneath the faulty stars
live between the tears

the quick change world
is falling through the hole
the quick change world
is losing all control
well you might be interested
and you might be fake
and you might think it's alright
beneath the stars
all souls are lucky
now and again

what's on tv

the distance drew near
like a speck on a ball
where circular imprints
stepped from the light
and whispered a slogan
invented by a madman
so they all went along
and yelled to the heavens
or someplace as good
where you can find
the right toothpaste
without hardly looking
and that makes it so easy
like getting to venus
the resistance was weak
ideology was whimpered
but they stuck it out
with a brand-new idea
gimme some smoke
gimme some dinner
i'll get around to it one of these days
probably when we realize
we're all morticians
so what's on tv
ok i'll hang in there
i'll hang out there
ok i'll try
i'll try to see it the way you see it
i'll try to find ecstasy
who's the leader here
who's in control
what's going to change

except the characters
and the color
some people don't care
they can't live without killing
people are strange
we're all morticians
so what's on tv

hopped up

hiding in your place
for a long time
with broken wings
and a real hard line
i get hopped up
red red car
i got a red car
i'm going real far
with my red car
take it out on the street
take it to the stars
'cause i feel so fine
with my red car
i'm a real live wire
got a real desire
to go real far
with my red red cars

i got a real gold chain
wrap it around my neck
go out on the street with that chain
hold up that chain
gold gold chain
look at me
i got a gold chain
i get hopped up

when you cover up my eyes
when you show me your surprise
when you tell me it's the end
when you start it all again
got some real live fakes

got some real blue news
what's it going to take to pick and choose
what's it going to take to hear some real good news

help me find america

help me find america
land of hopes and dreams
where purple mountain majesty
is washing down the stream
why can't we try to live in harmony
why can't we try to live in peace
help me find america
'cause i can't find that dream

help me find america
land i used to know
where different times
and love for all
was not so hard to show
we carry times of war
and times of peace
we carry power to extremes
help me find america
'cause i can't find that dream

RIC OCASEK

TROUBLIZING

troublizing 1997

the next right moment

i'm getting real fed up now
and it's getting on my nerves now
and i got to slow it somehow
'cause i'm starting to swerve now
side to side up and down
set me straight on solid ground

i can't wait for the next right moment to come
i can't wait for the pleasures of the midnight sun
i can't wait they say the future has just begun
i can't wait for the next right moment to come

and you promised me some real trash
but you touched me with a limp wrist
and you're blinking me your eyelash
and i end up on your hit list
inside out up and down
take me to the battleground

hang on tight

well you're running to the microchips
and you're falling on your feet
and you're running to the west side
but you're trying to be discreet
and you're falling for the hip line
and you're busting out of here
and you're hanging with the sublime
and you're living out your fears

but you hang on tight
like love at first sight
and you hang on tight
like it was your last night

and you're dancing on the windowsills
and you're popping things that count
and you never felt a real slide
no significant amount
and you're going around at warp speed
and you're fishing for a break
and you're living on the east side
and you never feel sedate

and you're living in a dream world
and you're jumping on the roof
and when you're crawling down the hallway
you're still trying to act aloof
and somewhere in your dark side
everything's fuct
it seeps into your vision
of being thunderstruck

but you hang on tight
like love at first sight
and you hang on tight
like it was your last night

crashland consequence

if you need to follow if you need a push
if you need to swallow behind the bush
if you want to get out if you want it in
if you need to throw out discipline

take on all the odds and ends
know the way to better friends
it's the right time for a change
when things are getting really strange
and it's the right time for a change
when you start to feel restrained

if you need to bail out if you're in a spin
if you need to stay out on the rim
if you need to feel the electric lie
if you want to know the warning signs

take on all the odds and ends
know the way to better friends
'cause it's the right time for a change
when things are getting really strange
it's the right time for a change
when you start to feel restrained

crashland consequence
dance band hypertense
head bang on the fence
backhand self-defense
it's the right time for a change
when you start to feel restrained

troublizing

if it was easy you would never try
you could be helpless in the wink of an eye
it could be troublizing
it could be tantalizing
you don't know which or way
it's tattletale gray
and you're backing away

what if you never went along
what if you never could belong
got your hopes from a silver tray
got dreams on the ricochet
oh no it leaves you in distress
oh no which button do you press

what if you never made the switch
what if you never felt the itch
what if you never found the peace
kept living on a time release

not shocked

not shocked
at your buff and cocky
smart-ass grin
not hooked
you know you got to sink or swim
not found
when you look into
the scorcher's eyes
not there
when the history books
were printing lies

you got the weary number
pick up the party line
you got the bad cucumber
but you're never
going to fall behind
you're not shocked

not dreamt
in my dreams enough is said
not false
it's the velvet circus in your head
not nails
the gallow glass is cracking fast
not wrecked
but feeling just a little smashed
they get so excited
they get so united
they get so endangered
and you become a stranger

situation

you got a gangly glover
but you can breathe now
it's just the mouth of mother
that's so extreme now
play for time parasites
violent calm by covers night

the situation is kissing the ground
the situation is you take lying down
the situation is passing like rain
the situation eternally flames

without the rearview mirror
you never see clear
with all the tightrope walkers
you stay in high gear

the situation will soften the blow
the situation is whether or no
the situation is never that clear
the situation will soon disappear

without surrounding darkness
you see no bright stars
you know the situation

fix on you

i watched you flitter fluttering
i held on to your string
you slid right through my empty fingers
it didn't mean a thing

i've got to get a fix on you
you got me every way you knew
i got to get a fix on you

cheetah maybe she don't mind
she wants to be your valentine
tinker toy me into tears
throw away my favorite fears

take me to the brave sea
put my knees back on the ground
you took me to the threshold
now you never come around

people we know

when your eyes are tight now
you see the crash site howl
a crucified morning
people thunder storming
welcome to the heat race
dancers on a red plate
strike while the iron is hot

but you know that it's dark outside
and you have little time to hide
love and disarm now
it will do you no harm now
people we know slip away

feel like a gun head
from things that are not said
you had a sunday notion
you'd go through the motions
feeling cross and wavy
you know you couldn't save me
try to retrieve me somehow

you want to lay in the morning sun
and blow around like the chosen one
swinging at the sea stars
living on a memoir
people we know slip away

when your eyes are tight now
you see the crash site howl
a crucified morning
it comes with no warning

where's it going to come from
is it going to feel numb
people we know slip away

here we go

you think you lead the way
shifting by day
living by night
you think you got it made
creeping by day
cringing by night
and the splinters and slices of sun
can't help you find the nine one one

here we go broken hose
here we go again
here we go so exposed
here we go again

now you think it's time
to pull out all the stops
to come from behind
just south of your smile
safely hostile
cream of the crop

here we go broken hose
here we go again
here we go no one knows
here we go again
pick your angels—dump your heroes
here we go again

society trance

i was walking by the ocean's lash
and it was like motion from the stars
and light had gone
alien symbols and catfish cracking
lovers outsiders divorced
from the uncaring world
are sometimes viewed as heroes
or antiheroes
absorbed or tormented by loneliness
and the inability to communicate
decomposed by the system
with no power to change it
trying to get upstairs
the nightmares humming
just watching the society trance
just watching the society bash
just watching the society crash
lightning fools the night
the irredeemable night bird flies
still by windows some are running
transatlantic doll boy sleeps
shadows dripcircleswim
mystery riddles
freedom is no direction
the heart of the matter
is all in your head
through teeter rose inseams
and wayward grips
like a mosquito's insistence
lightning fools the night

RIC OCASEK
NEXTERDAY

nexterday 2005

crackpot

i'm a crackpot lately i keep looking down
and i'm looking for something that can't be found
and i'm stumbling and rumbling all over town
just looking for a better sign

i'm industrial jargon with a big lip plan
and i'm not even sure if i take a stand
but i keep on trying hard to understand
what i'm missing in this life

then i wander off in space
'cause there is no better place
and i target all my thoughts
and i try not to get caught

i'm a city sipper and i get so wired
my attitude is going to get me fired
i like to think straight but it gets me tired
but i hang on to the dream

bottom dollar

bet your bottom dollar
you're gonna feel alright
'cause when you shout and holler
they're gonna stand upright
i bet they want to corner you
want to be there just for you
bet your bottom dollar
you're gonna feel it tonight

and if you could dream your life away
what would you choose
and if you could dream your life away
i'd dream it with you

feeling cross and wavy
on the edge of the cuff
pushing and a poppin'
'cause you don't get enough
i just want to hold you tight
make sure everything feels alright
bet your bottom dollar
you're gonna get it right

don't lose me

don't make me mad don't rip me up
don't take my red chromium cup
don't let me down don't fool around
don't show me lies in your eyes

i've been caught before you're not the only one
i've been bought before and took it on the run
so don't lose me i know what you want to be

don't play your hurt don't pantomime
don't turn me off all the time
don't make it hard to capture you
don't toss me off when you're through

i've been caught before you're not the only one
i've been bought before if only just for fun
so don't lose me i know what you want to be

don't take my dream don't interrupt
don't bring me down when i'm up
don't fall apart when i get stuck
don't take it wrong when i suck

i've been caught before you're not the only one
i've been bought before i took it on the run
so don't lose me i know what you want to be

in a little bit

in a little bit time will tell
if it's going to break your spell
in a little bit you will know
if it's all just rigmarole

so if you're going to taper off
you don't want to be too soft
there's something you will never tell
and i know it's just as well

oh but you should know the answer
it comes to you when sinking
oh but you should know the story
it comes from you when thinking back

there's something in the way you talk
that makes me want to walk
there's always been a great divide
that's never going to liquefy

silver

you were my silver you were my gold
you were all the things that can't be told
you were my star falling through the night
you were the one that showed me grand delight

i can't see you
but i need you
and you're gone

you were my right hand you were my friend
you were always strong until the end
you were my good time you were my rave
you're the one that always set the stage

you're what i once knew
now i miss you
'cause you're gone

now i spend my lonely nights
wishing you were here to make things right
to turn my darkness into light

you were my party you were my tea
you're the one that had some faith in me

come on

i knew that all wasn't well
when i took it personal
but things get sour now and then
that's if you don't learn how to bend

come on
it always hits me harder
when i'm getting high
it always hits me harder
when i'm electrified

sometimes i want my mind to unlock
don't want to feel the stumbling blocks
a thought can be so poisonous
sometimes i take it too serious

i go for the ride
i keep my disguise
i can't visualize the end

i thought that i had enough
then i thought i'd throw away my stuff
and then i'd be free of it all
and then i'd be ready for the fall

i'm thinking

if ever i have to take a chance
i'd take a chance on you
you're everything i want to say
you're everything i knew
i can't go on about it
my thoughts just go astray
but if i ever had a chance
i'd throw it all away

i'm thinking that we could maybe find each other
i'm thinking that we could holiday
i'm thinking that we could maybe find each other
i'm thinking that we could maybe finally slip away

if ever i had to figure out
i'd lose my interest fast
there's something about this mystery
that makes affection last
i can't go on about it
my thoughts just go astray
if ever i had to take a chance
with you i'd go away

when i feel you i want to steal you
'cause the truth you never bend
when i hold you i get the best clue
i want to do it all again

carousel

carousel up and down up and down
silly clown there's rain in your shoes
spin around poison and pistols
they cut you down before you were through

galleries sleek lines in motion
like wishing wells all covered with dreams
alleyways you can't seem to cover
they cut you off before you can scream

but soon you will find yourself
and soon you will sleep
how can you hide yourself
from something so deep

filigree eighth avenue sideshow
what you see is falling around
all along they spike you with train fare
you know them all they hang up your flag

heard about you

i heard about you
you took me to a place that was strange
i heard about you
that look upon your face was rearranged
you kept me tight and warm
and laughing in the storm
you kept me on the edge
with everything you said
i heard about you
heard you were the same

but i can feel it when you look into my eyes
no matter what you're going through
i can feel it when you look into my eyes and say
it's all for you it's all for you

i heard about you
coming back to what you can't foresee
i heard about you
when you cracked there is no guarantee
no time to decompose
or take your painted rose
to hear your empty cause
or fix your broken laws
i heard about you
taking slack for their catastrophe

please don't let me down

please don't let me down
i've heard enough stories
i've seen too many clowns
so i'm filled with hope in a simple way
and i sold my soul to nexterday
so when you come around
please don't let me down

please don't take me in stride
don't you think it's funny when i hurt inside
'cause i can't pretend it will go away
and i can't defend what i did today
i'm going 'round and 'round
so please don't let me down

when i feel so far away
and i'm falling through the freeze
i can't rely on yesterday
to give me what i need

please don't take it too far
i know how you do it i know who you are
and i can't pretend that you don't exist
and you have to know that i can't resist
all the love i found
so please don't let me down

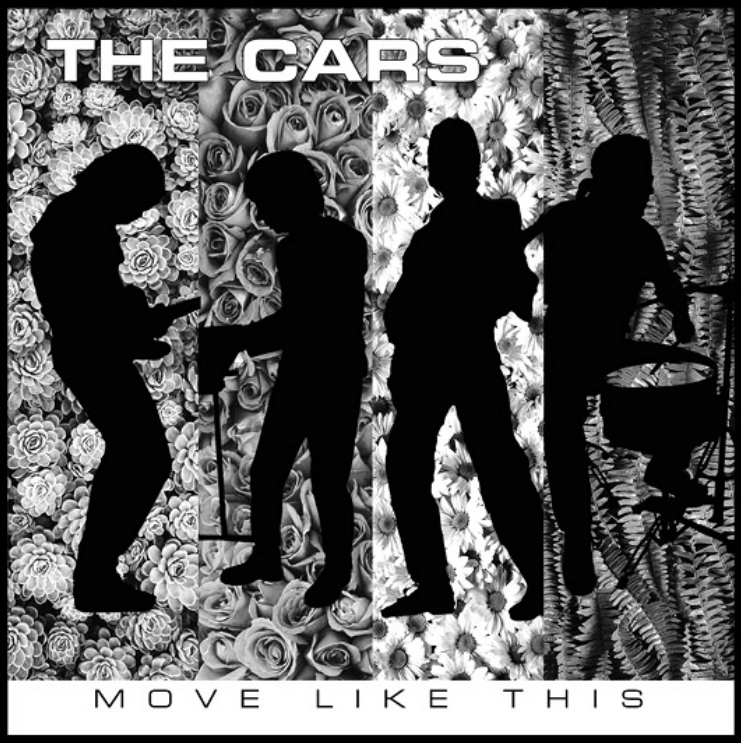
it gets crazy

gypsies moving through the night
everybody's picking fights
moving through the madness with a gun
west bank heroes desperately
trying to find obscurity
looking for a better place to run

and when the dust has settled down you'll say
there might have been a better way

it gets crazy along the way
it gets so crazy along the way
inside out and upside down
when you go from town to town
it gets crazy along the way

bragateers are booted high
showing off a little thigh
trying to get attention from the nones
but all confusion made you limp
and worst of all you'd be a wimp
thinking things like peace could save the world


THE CARS
MOVE LIKE THIS

move like this 2011

blue tip

you believe in anything
they tell you how to think
simpletons a circling
the raging roller rink
traders in the alley
bucking up a storm
forget about reality
'cause nothing is the norm

so what can you do
you say they owe me a few
blue tip me a cue

you got that look on your face
you'd like to be in the race
you cannot hide your disgrace
you leave without a trace
can't fill an empty space
you leave a bitter taste

sanctuary in the heartland
black and white tv
stroking all the gunheads
to the 9'th degree
you hear the screamers coming
they clamor in disguise
they think that you'll be running
to the other side

you stupefy the thinkers
you're hugging all the flakes
and all the things you think are true

only mystify the fakes

keep your hat on backwards
keep your lips tucked in
the world is full of quackers
and belly button rings
i know you'd like to be immune
to all the things you say
you're hung up on your heroes
and upon the beast you prey

too late

i could dream about
things that never end
wishes on a star
something 'round the bend
i remember times
things were pretty clear
felt the pressure pawns
threw away the fears

i believe in you
and your sultry side
i would never jump
your never-ending ride
my feet are on the ground
i'm in the lost and found
i might sway and tip
but i'll never jump the ship

never gonna get that crazy
never gonna be shot down
nothing ever seems to faze me
whenever you're around

you say it's too late
all the storms in life
you have to contemplate
you say it's too late
when the mornings rise
you got to celebrate
you may cross the line
or suck a clementine
but i know for sure

i need you never more
there's dreamers on the fringe
there's lovers on the binge
nobody really knows
that's just the way it goes

i can take a fall
or hang it on the wall
no matter what you think
i'm always on the brink
you can throw a twist
i can move like this
they give you lots of slack
then something pulls you back

keep on knocking

oh well the long street goes
for miles and miles
and it's picking up some strangers
and it's picking up some smiles
and the half-breeds holler
their educated guesses
and they got a lot of cheers
you guessed it you guessed it

they keep you in follow mode
they keep you in follow mode
take the street you never rode
they keep you
they keep on knocking
like the party's on
they keep on knocking
like the party's gone
from dark till dawn

i got some friends
in random places
all kinds of ideas
all kinds of faces
they keep their ready shoes on
they keep their shirts on ice
and they're looking to the future
to loosen the vice

they keep you in follow mode
they hold up their signs
they keep you in follow mode
most of the time

soon

you're my lover
you're the one i depend on
with one another
we don't have to pretend
you could turn me down
or over twice
you could treat me mean
or treat me nice

but soon the time will come
i know what i put you through
and soon the time will run
away from us like time it will do

you're my lover
and forever my friend
when i touch you
i never want it to end
when the starry night is
left to dawn
the thought of you just keeps me
dreaming on

when i need you
you will always be there
you're my lover
we can go anywhere
when the starry night is
left to dawn
the thought of you just keeps me
dreaming on

sad song

too many screamers wearing a mask
too many dreamers looking for the one that lasts
too many eyes looking for hope
too many tears looking for a way to cope
it's no joke

it's just a sad song that pulls you along
it's just a sad song when you hit head-on
it's just a sad song that pulls you along
it's just a sad song and it won't take long

too many thoughts breaking your stride
too many jekylls feeling like mister hyde
too many clouds darken your day
too many raindrops falling on your thunderbay
every day

too many heartaches waiting to strike
too many clowns claiming everything's alright
too many fires scorching your mind
too many preachers saying what you should find
they see the signs

drag on forever

i felt the pressure and i passed it off
i heard your glockenspiel pounding soft
i climbed on top of you, you said get off
must this drag on forever

i tripped and stumbled in the dead of night
flashing my endless stream of kryptonite
i lit my brain with rainbow crystal lite
must this drag on forever

then things got so quiet
like i should not be here
you said i had to try it
don't let me interfere
just get me out of here
please help me out of here

your waxy face is melting on your lap
i sat there trying to crush a gingersnap
your scream was sounding like a thunderclap
must this drag on forever

your coconut windows hid the light so well
your testimony put me in a spell
you look so wasted that i could not tell
must this drag on forever

take another look

shadows falling on my day
and time is standing still
you see things in a different way
a way that no one will
they're going to take the very thing
that's closest to your heart
they cannot mend your broken wings
you knew it from the start

don't you want to take another look away
don't you want to play the whole thing down
don't you want to take another look away
don't you want to take a look around

rivers rolling to the sea
clouds are breaking high
you can't find tranquillity
wherever it may hide
you played the game and now it's time
to keep the fire low
silver trains are rolling by
you have no place to go

your eyes are dim, your heart is blue
'cause nothing ever lasts
it's all too many miles to you
the best of friends must pass

it's only

and the fall and the walls
you think about it
and the call and it crawls away
and you know that there's much
to do about it
and you're caught in the ricochet

sometimes we just walk away from
delirious skies
sometimes we just want to feel so
electrified

it's only, it's only
to please the eye
and plague the heart

fun flicks and the trick
you know about it
dead bolts and a wired way
and the time and the rhymes
you hear about it
and the crimes they just fade away

well i see the ones you want
and i know the ones you share
and you deceive the ones you dare

and the drift and the gift
they give to you
it turns to another day
and the mess and the stress
you feel about it

it fades away

hits me

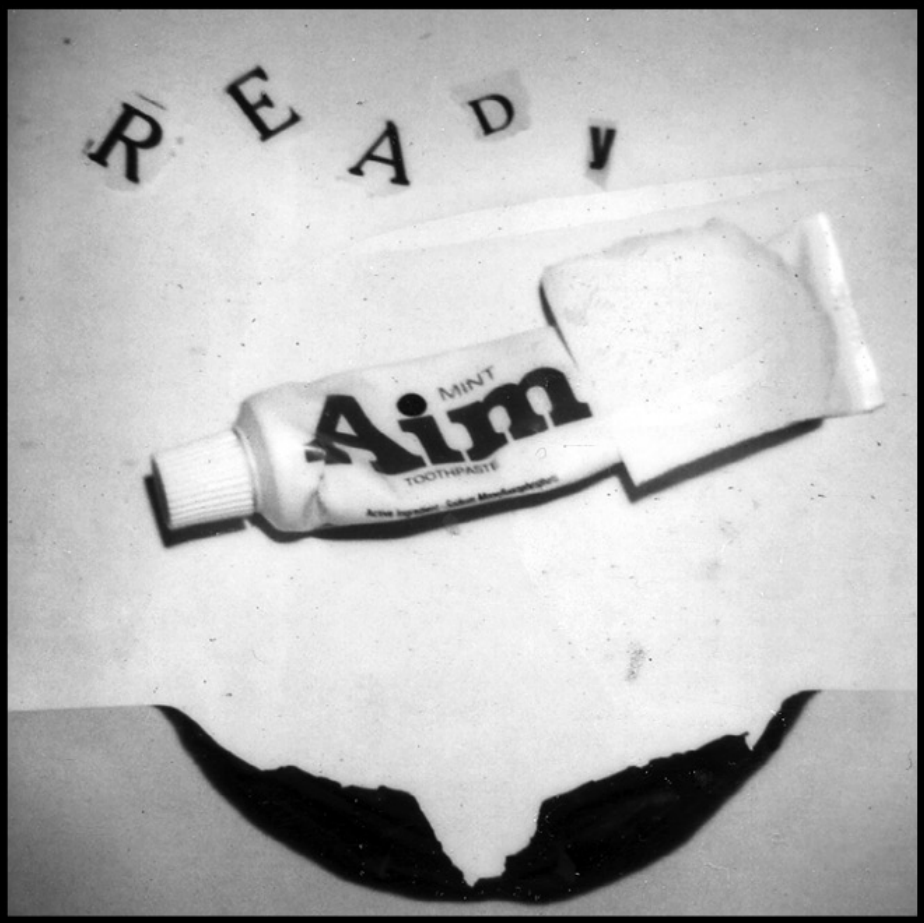
i was sucking on the sorry sights
i was watching out for things that bite
i was tripping on my own two feet
i was feeling like i got no sleep
and my thoughts were getting unrestrained
and i was looking like ichabod crane
i was looking for some serious fun
'cause a bad excuse is better than none
then it hits me

it hits me
i gotta just get through it
and i'll be fine
yeah it hits me
i gotta just get through
these changing times

oh i was paranoid about the signs
they say it's just another dangerous time
i don't answer i just decompose
and i'm running with a painted rose
i don't relate to the things they say
and i don't want to be like them today
i know it's useless dumb and it's crass
but i guess i'm just a real outcast

you could talk me into bittersweet
you could grab me off the bright night street
you gotta keep it really tight and warm
you gotta keep me laughing in the storm
well the roads are feeling hollow and steep
and i want to sew what i reap

i keep forgetting what i just forgot
and i don't know if i'm ready or not


READY
MINT
Aim
TOOTHPASTE

other lyrics

hotel queenie

hotel queenie could you make some room tonight
i saw you in the vogue wonder if you could still talk
i pinned up your photo i wake up to your sultry stare
when did you change the color of your hair

i like your vinyl costume curls and all your la dee dahs
tropical roadblocks all of them can teach you tricks
you always show at parties nobody knows you came
when did you change the letters in your name

i like to get your high sign i like to play around
everybody's getting crazy i think you better break the clock
umbrella world inside you trying hard to stop the rain
when did you stop the d train when did you die
when did you catch on to the jive

tonight she comes

i know tonight she comes
she's taking a swipe at fun
she gives me a reason
for sighting my sights
i know tonight she comes

she jangles me up
she does it with ease
sometimes she passes through me
just like a breeze
she gives me a reason
for feeling all right
i know tonight she comes

i know she's gonna do it to me one more time
i know she's gonna stay implanted in my mind
why does she keep me hanging on the line

i know the way she feels
and all of the hearts that she steals
she tells me it's easy
when you do it right
i know tonight she comes
she tells me it's easy
when you do it right
i know tonight she comes

take what you want

take what you want
and leave what you don't
take what you want
and leave what you don't

i'm painting a face
the color is dripping
magnesium moments
in black fairy tales

i live on emotion
and comic relief
i put this one on you
run run like a thief

am i all alone
am i all alone

salamander sunrise
comes at 4:44
lingerie madness
will kick down the door

sweet sarah's so wild
i'm losing your head
down the dark alley
where rumors are spread

the room is so dark
i'm catching your fire
i'm in love with your face
confused by desire

i'm winding it up
it's running back down
i'm winding it up
it's running back down

they won't see you

let's have a party let's go insane
let's dance and party out in the rain
let's tell the crew we've broken their brains
i know they will laugh until they get sick
they're caught in the act stuck in the thick

let's go to warsaw and try to find peace
let's call up the queen and bother her niece
let's really drink up and pile on the grease
they say you'll be back but don't come too near
they have the attack if you disappear

but they won't see you
they won't see you

let's have a trauma let's have a shock
let's stare at the tv and relate to spock
let's never answer the novelty knock
they get so upset when you come around
they won't let you forget until you come down

wake me up

wake me up in the middle of the night
show me which way to go
'cause i just don't know
swing me up sweet purple june
hold me like i'm a child
that's about to go wild

silver sunday tease my eyes
i am so dissatisfied
with the morning tide
roll me under drop me down
leave me back in new york town
that's where i'd like to be found

i'd like to know just where you've been
if you would like to try again
i'd like to slow this spin i'm in

breakaway

the loud morning in the small town cries
you gotta get away
and someone's throwin' in the prize
they don't wanna stay
the streets are quiet like the stars
moonlight puts on a chill
you gotta get yourself outta here
you always say you will

oh black rider feels alright
persian dreams and china white
where you gonna go tonight
you gotta breakaway
you gotta breakaway

people move between themselves
without on purpose touching
always nearly dark and frantic
in the corner people clutching
the dance-o-rama it burns with ease
hiding screams of passion
the night watch city melts away
just keepin' up with fashion

slip away

i can tell that you're wild
and you lure their aching smiles
and i know i'm on the list to be kissed
when you're giving out my name
to the ones you want to blame
you'll be on the brink of tears, that's right
could i talk you out of staying here tonight

well i see that you're cute
in your fiorucci suit
and your eyes have seen the shadows that you hide
i could be a little sweet
that would come off very neat
you'd be on the brink of tears, that's right
could i talk you out of staying here tonight

i've been waitin' all this time
something's gotta change now
i get the same erratic line
slip, slip away now
slip, slip away now
slip, slip, slip, slip away now

well i see that you're fast
and your trip will never last
and i know i'm on the list to be missed
it's your sentimental streak
that allows you to be meek
and you're on the brink of tears, that's right
could i talk you out of staying here tonight

that's it

that's it
don't wanna show you
that's it
don't really care
can't you see
it's misery
and that's it
oh yeah

that's it
don't play it cool now
that's it
your trick is dead
can't you see
it's lunacy
so, that's it
oh yeah

i'm lettin' it all go
i'm lettin' it all go
back to one
just for fun

that's it
don't make it harder
that's it
don't make it tough
can't you see
no remedy
and that's it
oh yeah

get it right

you've been trying every day
to keep your sanity at bay
looking for a different tide
trying to fathom all the signs

but you see the tears in the light
and you're trying to keep the cutters out of sight
everybody wants to get it right
when you're looking for that dream

you've been walking all around
building up and tearing down
trying to find a better you
something brave or something new

you've been heading for a crash
while other people dot and dash
you've got better things to do
'cause on the fence there's just a few

the factory

the factory's waiting the soft machine runs
the workers are wasted there's no time for fun
the gadgets are boring the day is so gray
packing the products of american decay

the working day people have forgotten their pride
they don't even know if god's on their side
there's no revelation there's no shooting star
there's no way of telling how close or how far

it can happen here
it can happen here

the factory's waiting the soft machine runs
they call it survival there's no time for fun
no mixed emotion no grand vizier
no one is checking to see if you're here

the factory's wired there's nothing to make
the horn of plenty is one big mistake
there's no rendition there's no future plan
no one with vision to hold out their hand

it can happen here
it can happen here

there's people in pastures there's people in fear
there's people in wars there's people in tears
there's people in trouble with nowhere to look
there's people on fire with nothin' to cook

it can happen here
it can happen here

at the factory

who do i pay

who do i pay for this one
who do i pay for that
whoever's got it coming
got it coming back
who do i pay for this one
who do i pay for that
nothing like a statue
think i'm losing track

does it really matter much
does it all exist
are we just a troubled bunch
sitting on a fist
has to be a browbeater
punching out your sense
don't know if no one noticed
but i think you look intense

they're watching from the windowsills
and dancing on their toes
twirling catastrophes
putting on a show
i run about this tea town
the future i can see
you end up with some crazy talk
and a bargain tragedy

could there be a different world
without the economics
i guess for those who think as much
well they'd be called a comic
we always have these doom slayers

trying to run the joint
they always try to charge you up
to the breaking point

long way to go

well i'm walkin' down a road
full of travesties
where the crumbling flowers call
by the old churchyard where the blind can see
and the stumblers never fall
three times down and so much to see
i've been wasting so much time
but now that time is wasting me
good times are hard to find

you got a long way to go
to find a friend
you got a long way to go
until the end

well i'm walking with the funny crowd you see
and they're laughin' on the inside out
and they're callin' for a calm catastrophe
and they're lookin' for a good way out
no matter how the memories twist and turn
and the fighting it tips your top
they all want to bow to the great machine
if that's all that you've got

you got a long way to go
to find a friend
you got a long way to go
until the end

three times down so much to do
i've been wasting so much time
but now that time is wasting you

good times are hard to find

lucky walk

when they took it all away
i remember they all would say
it's all inside
that's where you cry

and i feel like a lucky walk
but i have to try to talk
and i remember they all would say
come back another day
'cause it's all inside
that's where you die

when they took it all away
i remember they all would say
you're as sure as ice
but you're twice as nice
and it's all inside
that's where you die

midnight dancer

you come out like a dancer
who's been leaping for her life
you're tired of open-end romancers
who never reach the perfect height

you come out like a window dresser
in your sure to share attire
with a touch of grace and splendor
and a vision from afar

midnight dancer
keep on dancin' through the night
midnight dancer
keep on dancin'
till you're tight

you fall out like a beauty
who's been born to catch the eye
when you spin and cause commotion
you can laugh away or cry

midnight dancer
keep on dancin' through the night
midnight dancer
keep on dancin'
for your life

rainbow boys

well the long street goes
for miles and miles
and it's kickin' up some strangers
yeah pickin' up some smiles
and the half-breeds holler
their educated guesses
with their high-topped sneakers
and the day-glo dresses

'cause nothin's easy for
the rainbow boys
they show up inside you
with various toys

well the moonshine faces
materialize
and they struggle with the promise
that they made to their brides
and they act a little lackadaisical
when they're feeling so tough
you can take it all with you
but it's not that much

you can't stop it

how would you like
if things were all the same
turn on the light
standing in the rain
how would you feel
if things turned out your way
slipping around
the never-ending day

you can't stop it
but you can't go on
you can't stop it
but you can't go wrong
you can't stop it
but you can't go on and on

taking a ride
down the simple street
crazy inside
you're melting from that heat
most of the time
you're living on a whim
never to know
the rights you're giving in

what do you find
when you really look inside
who do you know
that would put up with your pride
how can you tell
if they're trying to get through
what do you say

when it's finally up to you

crazy over you

i guess i'm tryin' to be cool
when you're around i'm easily fooled
i think the stars are on my side
i think your train is one to ride

if ever one could turn to two
i'd click your glass and follow through
while some are kept and some are thrown
i could live on your memory alone

the sky is dark your eyes are new
i guess i'm crazy over you

are you ready

you can feel it
when you walk into town
and that funny funny feeling
is going to spin you around

are you ready
to make an advance
are you ready
just to give me a chance
are you ready
to dance dance dance
are you ready
for taking a chance

down on the corner
they hold the light and the key
the charm and chatter
and all the real mystery

when you're feeling two times over
and looking for the one too shay
you only find the three-leaf clover
you want
you want to break away

no one's leaving
no one's really in touch
you get the feeling
that no one changes that much

crossing the line

i made a list and i checked it twice
gonna find out if it's wrong or right
i never know if it ever gets clear
i only know that too far is near
i'm feeling trapped by my discontent
i'm feeling wrapped like a gift not sent
trader eyes they can tangle the night
i want to move at the speed of light

i grabbed my hat but my coat was late
i told my baby that she looked great
i wound it up till i busted the spring
i heard the news didn't mean a thing
i shuffled down to the corner's point
i kicked my feet and i lit a joint
i went a knockin' on every door
i didn't know what i knew before

lit up the night with a dangerous kiss
lit up the night with a curious twist
i looked around for the fairy glass smile
i tripped the light but i did it with style
i wasn't friends with the easy way out
my propaganda was filled with doubt
i often wonder if i'm making much sense
i'm just living in the present tense

i know time is ripping my mind
so it goes
i know truth is crossing the line
yeah i know

can't you feel it coming

can't you feel it coming
can't you see it on the rise
feel it in your soul
see it with your eyes
can't you feel it coming
it's knocking on your door
pullin' on your heartstrings
saying never more

can't you see it coming
it's climbing up your leg
trying to take you over
makes you want to beg
can't you see it coming
it's wrestling with your mind
trying to find a good spot
that you will never find

can't you hear the chaos
running 'round the bend
choking on the clamor
before you descend
can't you hear the rattle
roaming through your brain
ready for the battle
standing in the rain

what they expect

i'm tired of wearing zebra skins
i'm tired of being crazed
i'm tired of feeling everything
and them not being fazed
i'm sick of being suffocated
over and over again
i got some numbers on a matchbook cover
and a postcard from a friend

do you know
what they expect from you tonight

i'm through with propositions
and the unsettling makes me wild
i hear a few renditions
and i throw them in a pile
i could be called a futurist
on the way to timbuktu
you might just say that you're on the list
but that's outdated too

you always feel so desecrated
when you're called out by the thugs
you somehow feel that you're not related
and you want to pull the plug
you're tired of looking over your shoulder
and you just want to go back
so many times you miss the point
but who's been keeping track

shake a little nervous

you were in the right line
you were waiting for your turn
and people were always cutting in
well some will never learn
you were just a roadrunner
trying not to stall
and i was just one of the team
all for one and one for all

i just shake
i can't stand still
get a little nervous
i'm shaking against my will

i used to get the gossip
i believed every word
didn't matter what they said
it's only what i heard
but i was in the corner
watching like a hawk
and i was getting a little nervous
and i didn't much talk

you were always happy
you never had a mood
confident and snappy
and a little bit crude
i put on my zero suit
and yelled out like a thumb
i thought i was so functional
oh i was pretty dumb

thimble jar

frozen dawn
beneath the sky
are you there
show me why
placid people
turn their cheek
try to find
the flower's heat

how much time
will we spend
trying to stitch
this world again
build a dream
stand aside
pick a place
to watch it die

i see people
laugh at me
they don't know
what i can see
and what i see
is what they are
tiny minds
in a thimble jar

1969

antique sundance band

there's someone sleeping in my head
and it's someone
i don't even know
i've been searching deep
through my steel blue sleep
and i still can't find a clue

from cockleshells to freedom bells
they sing to me
like the river flows
lovers and weepers
virgin sleepers
no one really knows

there's someone sleeping in my head
and it's someone
i can't seem to find
from shackled bars
to morning stars
i still get left behind

some people say that dreams come true
but lately
i've been losing sight
wasting time
feeling blind
looking for the light

1971

i just can't say

the sun peeks through
you say i wish you didn't have to go
well i know how you feel
it's a real bad deal
but healing takes time
you just can't forget and then unwind
it's not right
so cruel
to lose all in a night

and although some times were good
and i thought we should belong
you know we can't go on
we just can't hang on this way
'cause the game won't play

i made a mistake
needless to say i've made a few
but you know too well
i made a few with you
and now i must go
it's not what i want it's what i know
it's done
it's too late
and we've hardly begun

and while i'm away
i can't say i'll think of you each day
you're gone new life
and i must carry on
the story's the same
first there's love and then the pain

for you and me
sometimes it hurts to be free

1974

i'm ready for you

i got a roll-away bed and a steam-heated head
i got a landscape picture
and i'm a fool about my dread
i got trees outside my window
supermarkets down the street
a sawdust circus and a plastic mercy seat
i think i'm ready for you

i got teacups on my window
i got ashes on the floor
i got doughnut shops and witnesses
right outside my door
i got cannonballs and party whips
dead telephones and skinny hips
i've even got some coke to sip
so i think i'm ready for you

i got heartbreak stories and a honeysuckle tree
i got bill collectors, head dissectors
coming after me
i got cigarettes and things to tell
baggy pants and junk to sell
i've even got a broken wishing well
i guess i'm ready for you

1969

oo la la

the midnight oyster bellies bug you
from inside you want to scream
the comic scene is your arrival
your reflections are obscene

take the attitude garbage in the kitchen
and the parasites keep inside your pants
i'm last in line to hear your bitching
i'm first in line to dance

oo la la i'll meet you at the moulin rouge
i'll bring some crutches you can use
i'll bring a flame to light your fuse
i'll meet you at the moulin rouge

pick your angels dump your heroes
slide beside the point head prank
exchange your costumes for the moment
forget the face you wish to thank

1968

freely sing and paradise poems

1968 *to* 1976

at home by the sill in the rain

she danced
with flower morning eyes
spangle chicks
the ultimate lip balm
thin gliding thighs
emotional kickback patterns
watermelon cherry bomb stoppers
flypaper window screens
ecuador monkey-eaters
swingbat mother hermits
they all came to watch her
some painted their pink flamingos
with fairy dust
others just waited by the window
for the street queen ballet
she danced
with flower morning eyes
at home
by the sill
in the rain

café au lait

café au lait
summer day
feet out the window
saw you swayin' 'cross
the endless floor
collecting tips and offers
café au lait
you're lonely
i found your eyes following
sometimes i think
i'd like to help
but my café au lait
would get cold

freely sing and paradise

if the only thing i gave you
was this hazy phrase
this freely sing
and paradise
would you warn the magic children
crack their clay cribs
and thrash their midnight
blue oyster bellies
would you crawl inside your tidbit body
and pull the seaweed strings
sell your ceremony to
the anxiety king
give fair warning of what you bring
help the dead
to freely sing
and paradise

melt away

on some of those days
the warm rush climbs
the attitudes don't make sense
the chrome sparkles float slowly
past my blue gray eyes
i can't recall a single phrase
on some of those days
blunderfire
reaches into his tadpole kit
looking for the cantaloupe sunshine
then swings a funny melon
down the old oak tree
on some of those days
i melt away

second thought

once
i borrowed a crutch
from a duckman
you know the one who sells ragweed
to the allergy queen
he stopped me on the beach one day and asked
if i had a sidekick named horseface
and i said i'd be glad to
as long as he soaked his shoestrings
in tubagrease
i spun myself around
quickly enough to notice
i was looking in the same direction
nothing had changed
the worst was behind me
but i still had the rest of my life
to laugh at
let me know
if that salamander sunrise
you've been attending
is worth the price of sadness
i won't be around
too much anymore
she digs immortality
and her pants don't fit

shadyspace

in between the shadyspace
i sit a bit
there's a sucker stick stuck
on an old man's chin
he walks along pretending
that he wants to turn to dust
and be blown away by the whiskey wind
with a clock stapled to his chest
and a set of chevron wings
glued to his toenails
he decides he's been having
a footloose romance
with core of nowhere

tenderfish

this mars mood motioning
as if i'm supposed to speckle
disregarded configurations
of moonshot sundays
if i had the will
they all say
creeping across the blank dead floor
like silver dish dummies
crumbling beneath the toast flakes
who ever dreamed
lapped with cement tongues depicting
the glued words of their widowed enemies
never realizing
it's never what it really is
between another dawn there flies
a rosebud raven slumber dipping
into the claustrophobic sky
asking
what's benign these days
my jell-o pumping jivebomber
while eating potato salad sunfish steaks
i only see
you

winding down

winding down is sometimes hard
it always passes
through magnesium glasses
through stomach tinges
and worn-out hinges
directions hazy
feeling lazy
in sympathetic mood
i try to fake it
lie to shake it
memories are my food
a swiveling manic
left to panic
like a tunesmith plucking
idiotic chords on a january box

I grew up in Baltimore, Maryland. My father was a systems analyst at NASA. He always worked for the government, secret stuff. Sometimes people would show up at our house to interview my mother about whether my father talked in his sleep. She was a sarcastic live-and-let-live person. I got some of that from her. I went to a Catholic school and was an altar boy until I was asked to leave; not for anything spectacular, just for irritating the nuns. As an altar boy, I was required to attend a lot of funerals. You're watching people being put in the ground and thinking nothing of it; and then they would throw in a few weddings, so you wouldn't think that life was all death, I guess. I'm a city-oriented person, so I would always have to live in a major metropolitan area. I live in New York City, so I guess that fits the bill. I love the city at night: lit rectangles reaching for the sky. When I first came to New York in the late sixties, it was far more street friendly. You would meet people hanging out, then end up staying at their apartment if you needed a place to sleep, which I did. I slept on people's floors and in their bathtubs, which in New York were usually in the kitchen. I liked doing all that, fitting in where I could. I can fold up and fit into small places even though I'm tall. I slept in a friend's car for a couple of months in an underground garage at Broadway and Houston. The garage is still there, but the car is long gone. It's gotten a lot harder to live on the streets of New York and learn about life. It's more dangerous. I mean, we only get more crazed and violent as time goes on. For the most part, I lived in the East Village. Rents were cheap and friends were easy.

prose

I'd take my guitar over to Bleecker Street and play at some of those coffeehouses where you pass the hat. You could make ten to fifteen dollars a night, and that was all you needed. Everybody was excited, trying to do things they loved. Peace and love was working for a while. But that faded away in the seventies.

· ric ocasek 2012

human race

homer took the shortcut
through a neon-colored alley
where the wet walls wept
the street gang tears
fortified with wheat germ
and confrontation jokes
they bragged about the highway murders
and nights out on the range

fantasia had a fake name
and it served her like a weapon
in the hour of the dilemma
you could turn into a snake
gerrymander joy ride
through the cities rough vendetta
couldn't get reaction
from what we call the human race

sitting still

every day i say it
but no day do i do it
some days i just think it
but i've never gotten through it
sometimes i crescendo
with thoughts i cannot shape
when all the signs say this way
the other road i take
one day i was thinking
about the things you said
you know the words you told me
are swimming in my head
some things were so true to you
and others they were false
and all the one you want to blame
could be anybody's fault
some don't have a passion
i guess they never will
some are out there trashing you
and some are sitting still

blast furnace futures

blast furnace futures
violence written up their sleeves
god can't be defined by people
or worshipped by fanatics
science is looking for god
but they can't find it
they're looking into imaginary
black holes
while microchip mouths drizzle
life goes on as a stepping-stone
to death

Dec 8, 1980

TONIGHT
JOHN LENNON WAS SHOT BY AN IDIOT
IDIOTS ARE EVERYWHERE
IDIOTS DONT GIVE A SHIT
IDIOTS ARE OUT OF CONTROL
IDIOTS BLOCK THE LIGHT
IGGY CALLED TONIGHT
I SAW HIS SHOW EARLIER
I DIDNT STAY TILL THE END
HE CALLED TO ASK WHY
HE SAID HE WAS AT HIS BEST
ON FUNTIME

I WISH I'D STAY TO SEE IGGY
I WISH LENNON WASENT A VICTIM

Dec. 8, 1980

tonight
john lennon was shot by an idiot
idiots are everywhere
idiots don't give a shit
idiots are out of control
idiots block the light
iggy called tonight
i saw his show earlier
i didn't stay till the end
he called to ask why
he said he was at his best
on fun time
i wish i'd stayed to see iggy
i wish lennon wasn't a victim

dynamic synoptic declaration

noise music is incorporated
mostly as background
foreground sound
for example
dsd = body motion
sound poems
silences
speak among
themselves
ono
mato
poetic

tasks

mostly life is about
small meaningless tasks
finding a match
turning off the light
waiting for someone
to speak
then there's more
than a few
tragic events
that you try
to adjust to
some good shows up
from time to time
but still life mostly
is about
small
meaningless
tasks

grandfather 2

my grandfather
came to america
in the 1920s
from czechoslovakia
he was a farmer
and had five sons
my father
took me to see him
a few times
in cleveland
he refused to speak english even though he could
he was a cold unaffectionate man like my father
i remember trying to think of him as my grandfather
but there was no connection
just a mean old bitter guy
who took a swing at my favorite uncle
from his deathbed

state of mind

a state of mind
pitting negative energy
against positive consequence
minimal art
minimal emotion
for the modern technocrat
open anywhere
cut in at any point
eliminate habitual reaction
tv spreads the common word
and common it stays
there is no master plan
only disinformation
presented to the masses
on high defamation tv

power

power is economic
war is an economic settlement
war is death
war won't end
power won't end
people will always be repressed
power is loneliness
people decomposed by the system
alienation is provoked
by artificial dissatisfaction
in this system
work is considered
a loss of free time

small change

look at yesterday
future bare
uncertain
looking for a reality smasher
spectacle society
technological fear
the fast feel
take it now
worry about it later
they don't want
change moving in
without permission
change is slow
it is the undermining
of one's reality

for a few

some people
live in dirt
and don't mind
some people work
in dirt
and do
some people
are dirt
and want to die
some people
clean dirt
for a few

the menu

our specials are
the pallets of pig knuckles
swimming in swine butter
baked on a dead roach
with a sprinkle
of jaundice powder
then we have
toe nail–colored
cauliflower cubes
miraculously enchanted
with tidbits of rectum flour dust
you may have
a side order of sow
and fin chips
smothered in freeze-dried
rhine shrimps
lastly
mongolian chicken feather soup
orangutan sweat
then oiled lightly but fanatically
steamed through
life gauze

they say

they say
stay loose
be happy
relate to the crowd
telling some stories
that matter to no one
trying to keep up
as the beer cans get louder
looking through spotlights
that burn through my windows
while hands shielding whispers
are dripping with envy
they wonder tonight
if they're gonna get laid
they sit in their chairs
like a hunched-over willows
and there's so much attention
wasted on nothing
and the meaning of this
and the problem with that
and the morning song widow
found a pitman street cat
and they say be happy
it's as easy as that
and i think i believe them
but i still feel the same

1977

trip the light

you trip the light and go
looking for company
a brainstorm-colored night
to dream of
some other place
popular to be
having hoped
for something better
beyond the pose
blue-stained rose
curious creatures
dumbed by holy light
are watching the screams
float into space
and join the race
to nowhere

new cars

the paint was fading
pinholes of rust
auto transmission
slow gears
cold spark plugs
clogged intake valves
drive train bent
hubcaps missing
one-way roads
stoplights
traffic jams
hot cops
people stole its parts
took the side roads
to someplace

weapons

when the big picture
shrinks to a room
to be a spectator of a ritual
presented alone or with a group
noisicians with lighting
artist visuals performed
in galleries
alternative spaces
theater of artists
no separation
noisicians
above the blackout
project sound vitamins
never mind a world
that can't see past brutality
answers are getting the gas
live gestures
have constantly been used
as weapons

attention

i guess
when you are unable
to know your identity
you criticize
or assume
the identity of others
one needs an identity
to get attention
people who are nobody
try to be everybody
people assume the identity
which they think
will get them attention

gunheads

you see pictures
all the time
of a person holding a gun
pointed to their own head
sometimes in their mouth
looking at the camera
more gunheads to follow
how many times
must we see it
to get the message
what is the message
pull the trigger stupid

negative theater 1992

some people

Some people live in the past and some live in the future.
I guess happiness shouldn't always depend on something
in the future. If you don't like what you're doing right now,
something is wrong. The past and the future are just impressions.
They exist in the present when you're thinking about them.
One always has exaggerated ideas about what one doesn't know.

god i do

god do i like you
god do i like
do i like
do i like you
i like you
god do i
do i
i do
like you
god do i
i do like you
i do like you god
i do

hollywood words evaporate

hollywood words evaporate
slip by the nonlasters
rootie tootie mumble lips
howdy doody smiles
trash for peace
solitary mustard
oh me i was there
watching the slick trick
still life moving
away from the source
murky and wild
head cones and whip flash
four in the meadow
six on the floor
waiting for joke pain
dressed like a cup

doorways

dead notes
bloody-nosed bums
on puked-stained pavements
coughing up chime
snot and liquid shit
on their pants
under their fingernails
with blistering lips
scream into cement building
doorways

not withdrawn

on canvas
bubble snapdragon
on the verge
slipping past
the nonlasters
simulating ring waves
power punches
above the dry heaves
city rot

follow

the everlasting
wonder walk
brazen
blank-headed bustouts
we're ready for a
kick their ass
government
we love football
people only get worse
more violent
more evil
more dead

tomb steel flying crates

holy clouds
playful light
air rides
in silent flight
thirty thousand feet above
the geometric plots
could be mars
or anywhere
life is absent
roads are empty to the eye
noon doom nothing occupied
no forwarding address
tomb steel flying crates
savage dips
flip-flop banks
fifty-fifty chance
ground control
touch down
on the equally unsteady
earth

god's a thing

you hear about on tv
from a couple of con artists
collecting money
because they can talk
desperate people
into anything

insanity system #8

kafka jerky haggardness
open fires lit
under silver solder bridges
chrome eyeballs reflect and roll
simple sun gives us light
roman shoestrings
andy warhol doughnuts in the wings
insanity system number eight
lumber jet romance
statue bandits eat screaming fish
speeding through life
thoughts tangle tight

amusements galore

watch tv
think about things
look around
daydream
eat sleep wake up
walk
talk to yourself
dream
get depressed
imagine the worst
idle time breeds fantasy
sought-after dream bait
feels great too late
excuses fill time
and protect nothing
wondermaze enemy
atomic time again
with thee i send
amusements galore

someone pick up my knees

off the ground
and hand them to my monkey
who watches for cowboys
in the humidor building
right down there in tulsa
where they make the plump choices
like a milkman on speed
so tempted by photos
with their rough even tempers
strung up like a prayer
and the danger in sit
and the sidelines of envy
are toasted and wet
they whisper your secrets
in a hypocrite trance

all men should be boxers

men kneel
inside their marble temples
looking for something
to worship
solid objects
they kiss the carpet
chant
and call themselves holy
all men should be boxers
fuck advancement
love
reason
all men should be boxers
beat each other's heads in
draw blood
go home
have a beer

she was fascinated

with her newfound attention. She always thought she was the butterfly no one could catch, and the most beautiful wing spreader, anyone had seen. She would flit from flower to flower, dancing off the pearly petals like a modern ballet dancer in the circus of humanity. She sometimes thought of herself this way, only to be sidetracked by stupid reality.

in a hole

surely you must think
you're missing something
some degenerates
have all the fun
behind stuck doors
against the sun
among the brilliant
broken hearts
high above
the raging sparks
warned and preached
and bitten soft
spread out lazily
in a hole

rainbow boys too

nothing is easy
for the rainbow boys
they show up inside you
with various toys
to settle the difference
to switch on the light
to puncture the problems
that make you uptight
nothing is easy
for the rainbow boys
despite the mirrors
and afternoon death
they pump it up plenty
to squirt on your breath
with their hatchet mouth frowns
they say you're the best
nothing is easy
for the rainbow boys

pay joy

night walls
crazy eyes
purple boots
shaky thighs
are you still curious
are you still there
breathing shell
empty face
twinkle toes
pretty lace
pressure valve
dangling coy
oasis neon
oh boy
pay joy

there are strays

strays hanging around
waiting
for a shot
thinking of ways
to get in
and out
without
commitment
fakeheads
on the loose

lightning

lightning fools the night
the irredeemable nightbird
flies
still by windows
some are running
transatlantic doll boy
sleeps
hard-pressed
against the sheet

crowds

people per mile
surveillance
transporting the hurt
considerable distances
packing them into rooms
cement buildings
exciting the mob
with raunchy yelling
loudspeakers roar
mass intoxication
the crowd hampers
independent thought

paul's bakery

I'm sitting here at Paul's Bakery, watching the blizzard,
and waiting for the studio to open. Everyone's late, when
the New England snow blows. I'll probably work on the
same song for the rest of my life—all songs being one.
Hume said, "The entire world is in one's mind." All
knowledge comes from sensory impression, rather than
a prior aspect of reality. You don't see time, for instance,
so what's the rush.
Time is close.
Things get quiet when it snows. Time seems to stand still,
like when your mind sleeps between thoughts. So let's talk
about envy, jealousy, girlfriends, music,
misunderstanding, art, money, trips, death, slimeballs,
muscles, cheap talk, friends, videos, leather, business,
pimples, shit, poetry, poverty, space points, sex, food, cars,
tours, performance, dedication, awareness, caring, photos,
stars, skin, purpose, rain, bombs, lawyers, notes, sounds,
rhythm, drugs, booze, fights, life, people, books,
environment, pleasure, rumors, image, pressure,
guns, style, escape, movement, junkies, losers,
motivation, jobs, soul, gods, smoke, difference,
eyes, the future, illusions, waste, traps, focus,
feeling and time.
It's still snowing outside Paul's Bakery, but I could suck in
the smell of this place for a trillion picoseconds.
Everyone's late when the New England snow blows.

3:33 am

is a good time
the birds are quiet
the drunks don't scream
tv sound down
operas high
things don't match
up
still i am
talking to someone
you can't picture

infected

visions slung
by the waste side
can't go back to religion
too many money-sucking fakes
monks are momentary
nuns can be seen in the field
showing people
how to wash their hands
overall improvement
of mass opinion is bleak
everyone trying to be secure
hope for happiness
no collective way out
survival race
team spirit is weak
no leadership
everyone has their own
strangleholds
babies born with hope
are too soon
scientifically expounded upon
dreams and fantasies
are turned to reality
the shapes of men and women
are infected

computer war

war darkens the imagination
lethal mosquitoes
stiletto-nosed bomb bellies
brain-thrilled piloteers
camouflaged
abstract landscape
twice the speed of sound
microsecond death dot
minuet trajectory adjustments
heads-up display
phone booth cockpit
spring-loaded reflex
controlled destruction

attempted suicide

he was going to hang himself
i went to his loft for a
cheeseburger
i was tired
anyplace inside was acceptable
he said sleep on the couch
under the noose
which hung from a rafter
above my head
decapitated plastic statues
arms and face smashed
body parts removed
scary music
drifted off to sleep
awakened by sole shoes
kicking my face
his neck in the noose
gagging and spitting up
grabbing his legs
i lifted up
and he kicked like a fish
with a bleeding neck
but he didn't die
he cried for hours
then went to the kitchen
and made scrambled eggs
after breakfast
i left

静かに!!
BE QUIET!!

senryu

cadillac soul

cadillac soul
soft smoke feeling
some do it well
for a while
then give way
fame get them
a mask

everlasting not

everlasting not
no nothing
lasting
ever does

creamators

creamators
binga binga
pocket shot
cheap indians
tictok

disadvantages

things can look beautiful
because they're different
compared to things
around them

beauty can cover
desperate disadvantages

zipped

pop flopped flipper
really sour tipper
evil jumping shipper
zipped

next

who shall
sep
ar
ate
us
next

people hang around

people hang around
in plaster boxes
silent
strained
waiting for something
to happen

not a poet

not a poet
not a clown

not a puppet
hanging around

a bargain tragedy

too soon
you fall asleep
with company
every night is like
a bargain tragedy

values

split screaming ear piercing
bloody fucking high-pitched power
acres of dead people
no emotional atmosphere
each having different values
and concerns

crypts

twisted tempers tripped
shipped tight-lipped
to frumpy foreign
crypts

all us angels wearing studs

all us angels wearing studs
plastic mouth melts in the sun
running colors everyone

we're all in prison having fun

never stop

fish cheeks
swelter
while romanian
cream puffs pop
dreamers bitch
at the wake-up call
but the clangers
never stop

maps

don't show me
maps
i would rather get
lost

are we civilized

we have
advanced toys
we go faster
someone else kills
our meat

ny

chunky churches
square lit windows

rising from the vault

la

razamatazz
willow whisper
falling into salt

he paced

he paced the temporary room
he watched tv
she heard the moon

dirty faces

flower breeze
blows across
dirty faces

close the door

trouble more
move the walls
close the door

silence

crickets crick
silence
is broken

holes and balls

people find it easier
to believe in
black holes
rather than
the flat earth
the world is about
holes and balls

rhapsody

rhapsody
pop smear
monkey head
soup

the time here

the time here means
the period to which we belong
the time here means
9:13
the time here means
a lifetime

forever lost

i know people live here
live here now and again
here now and again forever
now and again forever lost
in thought

sitting in limbo

sitting in limbo
waiting for a bimbo
to take your stash
then kick your ass

decay

flying the red-eye

bombastic snakes
drip coffee germs
on my skinny pants
while dry doughnuts
decay

frag

mented
flung
delinquent
crying
fuck tears
on a dry mouth night

no history

no history
no future
just this moment
with you

crack

flaming fun
people watching
water shocked
tears roll by
rubber faces
crack

it's alright

it's alright the mother says
to the panicky child
at the end of a scary
bedtime story
but still the child
cries deep into the night

sucker punched

just walking around
the noise colored party
i see your eyes
and feel sucker punched

i watched you run

i watched you run through
murky wild days
and thought of things you said
and dreams you threw away

outside

outside the black sky
sits i
who wonders
what's going to keep them going
those brilliant little ones
where who even on their tiptoes
can't see that

it's all for nothing

Ric Ocasek is an American songwriter, poet, producer, and founding member of The Cars.

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